MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 JANUARY 1981

Iran

Reaction to Hostages' Release--Leading Iranian officials have hailed the hostage settlement, Tehran radio reported, describing it as a victory over "American imperialism." Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said that the government solved the issue "in the best possible way," achieving the "greatest political gain in the social history of the world" by forcing the "greatest satanical power to its knees." Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told the Majlis that Iran has reaped "economic benefits" from the hostage taking. He praised the Muslim students who seized the U.S. Embassy personnel, saying that the action was a "turning point" in the Islamic revolution, and he congratulated the Majlis for choosing a "realistic way" to solve the issue. Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti declared that the superpowers cannot now ignore Iran's revolution and stressed that the hostage taking has helped Iran move toward "real economic, military and political independence." An unattributed radio commentary highlighted the same themes, praising the students' action and the "defeat" of the United States and calling the event the government's "greatest revolutionary gain." It said that Iran completed the settlement "without the slightest compromise in principle."

Bani-Sadr on Negotiations--A statement issued by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's office denied Minister of State Behzad Nabavi's assertion that Bani-Sadr "had knowledge" of developments in the hostage negotiations, saying that although minutes of the Algerian-Iranian talks were sent to his office up to 12 January, thereafter his office received "not even the slightest reports or information" concerning the final discussions. Bani-Sadr's statement, reported by Tehran radio, drew a quick response from the department in the prime minister's office that handled the negotiations. It issued a detailed statement, also broadcast by the radio, "to clarify" Nabavi's assertion, insisting that the department sent leading government officials and offices "full minutes" and "relevant documents" throughout the negotiations, but that the "hurried nature" and the "time limit" forced a postponement of any preparation of minutes or accompanying documents on the final talks. The statement also noted that while other leading officials asked for progress reports and offered their "consultative views," Bani-Sadr "never" asked for information or commented "either directly or indirectly" on the negotiations.

Khomeyni on Armed Forces--Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni issued a message, carried by Tehran radio, exhorting the armed forces and nation to greater unity and discipline. He said the armed forces must "scrupulously observe discipline," obey commanders, maintain "unity of command" and crack down on desertion. The ayatollah promised prosecution for individuals who transgress these stipulations. He also urged greater coordination among the armed forces and the nation and called on commanders to treat soldiers with "kindness" and set a good example. Those who infiltrate the armed forces and engage in "false propaganda" must be arrested, Khomeyni said, but Iraqi prisoners or deserters should be treated with kindness, given a "pardon" and be allowed to live in Iran thereafter if they so desire. Equally, dissident groups inside the country, "be they in Tehran or Kordestan" will be given "safe conduct" if they lay down their arms and remain loyal to Iran, Khomeyni said, but if they continue fighting against the government they will soon be "sorry."

Press Ban Denial--According to AFP, the National Guidance Ministry announced that U.S., British, Chinese, French and Soviet journalists are to be banned from Iran beginning 11 February. However, the Foreign and National Guidance Ministries later issued statements denying the AFP story, Tehran radio reported, adding that such decision are the prerogative of only the Cabinet or Supreme Defense Council.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported that Iraqi forces raided an Iranian camp at Nowsud, initiating a "fierce battle" that killed 21 Iranian troops. Tehran radio acknowledged the night attack but claimed to have routed the Iraqi attackers. Iranian artillery shelled Iraqi positions around Khuninshahr and along the Karun River, the radio said, while Iranian troops infiltrated into Iraq, destroying some Iraqi vehicles.

Islamic Conference Summit

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, chairman of the Islamic Conference foreign ministers preparatory meeting in At-Ta'if, announced that the political committee has completed its work and has issued recommendations to be submitted to the summit due to start on Sunday, according to SPA. The political committee, he said, will submit the report of the Jerusalem committee and the Syrian-PLO draft resolution on Palestine and the Jerusalem question to the summit for approval. In another SPA report, the prince called for a "long and persistent jihad" against the "Zionist enemy" since "moderation" has failed. Saudi Arabia, he said, wants to unify Arab ranks and adopt a "united stand in a single battle, regardless of cost." In a newspaper interview reported by QNA, Fatah leader Salah Khalaf called on the summit to adopt a "clear and committed stand" against the United States and Israel regarding the Jerusalem issue. Damascus radio reported that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, speaking to the At-Ta'if conference, urged the "opening" of Arab fronts for "fedayeen action."

With the continued absence of Iran from the preparatory conference, Baghdad radio reported that Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi said that the political committee decided to postpone discussion of the Iraq-Iran dispute until the summit conference. SPA reported that if Iran is also absent from the summit, the conference will hold merely "general debate" on the issue in order to find a "suitable solution." Meanwhile the chairmanship of the foreign ministers' conference decided to form a delegation headed by Islamic Conference Chairman Habib Chatti, SPA reported, which will go to Iran in an attempt to persuade it to participate in the summit.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi told SPA that the Islamic Conference permanent committee on Afghanistan formulated a resolution that can be a basis for a settlement of the Afghan issue. Iraqi Foreign Minister Hammadi also revealed, according to QNA, that the political committee approved an Iraqi proposal for bolstering aid to Eritrean Muslim insurgents, who will be sending a delegation to the summit.

Reaction to Reagan Inauguration

SPA reported that the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ called on the new U.S. administration to actively participate in establishing a "just and comprehensive peace" in accordance with Palestinian rights and the rights of the "whole Islamic nation" in restoring Israeli occupied Jerusalem. The Jordanian newspaper AD-DUSTUR, reviewed by Amman radio, said that President Reagan's election campaign statements arouse anxiety rather than optimism. He should not allow himself to be persuaded that military and political support for Israel is the "magic wand" that guarantees all U.S. interests in the Middle East, AD-DUSTUR stated, adding that it would also be "erroneous and dangerous" for the President to believe he can establish good relations with Arab states by "bypassing the Palestinian issue" or postponing its solution. Although the Arabs "reject subservience" to Washington, Moscow or any other capital, AD-DUSTUR explained, they are not looking for a "confrontation with or animosity for Washington."

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SAUDI PRINCE FAHD CALLS FOR JIHAD AGAINST ISRAEL

LD211036 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0834 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 21 Jan (SPA)--His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has asserted that the call on Arabs and Muslims for long and persistent holy jihad is the only reply to the Zionist racist arrogance, now that all masks have dropped and talk of peace with the Israeli enemy has become a mere illusion.

In a statement published in today's AL-MADINAH, his royal highness said that the call for jihad has not [word indistinct] in our struggle with the Zionist enemies, for a number of reasons connected with controlling matters, moderation and also hope for a just peace which preserves for the Arabs their legitimate rights.

His royal highness added: Words and statements have become of no avail in these critical and difficult circumstances. The Arab and Muslim nation is being confronted with a unique challenge which is supported by the strongest military power in the world. As far as we are concerned it is a question of to be or not to be.

His royal highness said that the Zionist enemy, having usurped the entire land of Palestine and some other Arab territory, is today declaring Jerusalem its united capital, defying by this the feelings of the Arabs and Muslims and also the UN resolutions. Hence we wonder: Of what avail has moderation been? Is this the West's concept of a just peace? Where is the comprehensive peace framework which they imagine they laid down at Camp David and which they promised us?

Referring to the question of autonomy for the Palestinians, his royal highness said that this issue requires from those who still wager on it a stand of pride and a lofty mind in order to admit failure and back down from what has taken and is taking place.

We in Saudi Arabia, he added, firmly believe that the Zionist enemy has embarked on [words indistinct] our territory gradually and is annexing Arab territory to itself at the appropriate time so that this territory becomes part of its so-called empire.

His royal highness stressed that putting the Arab house in order quickly has become a pressing and urgent matter on our list of priorities. He stressed that Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with other brothers, has embarked on unifying the ranks so that we adopt a united stand in a single battle, regardless of cost--a battle in which we place all determination, faith, resources and energies and everything dear to us. We shall not rest until our usurped land is liberated and until the Palestinian people return with dignity and pride to their homeland to set up their independent state, with Jerusalem its capital.

CHATTI TO URGE IRAN TO ATTEND ISLAMIC SUMMIT

Delegation Named

LD211410 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1350 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 21 Jan (SPA)--The chairmanship of the conference of foreign ministers of Islamic states has decided to form a delegation headed by Habib Chatti, general secretary of the Islamic Conference Organization, to go to Iran in an attempt to convince it to take part in the third Islamic Conference summit.

Chatti announced that the committee includes representatives from Turkey, the PLO, Pakistan and Guinea.

The conference of Islamic foreign ministers has delegated the chairmanship of the Islamic Conference to form this committee.

No Reply From Iran

LD221052 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Tehran, 22 Jan (KUNA)--Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization Habib Chatti said today in At-Ta'if that so far he has not received a reply to his request that an Islamic delegation, which would also include representatives of the PLO, Pakistan, Turkey and Guinea, visit Iran. He said that the five-man [as received] delegation will not leave for Iran if the latter refuses to receive it.

SOURCES PREVIEW HANDLING OF IRAN-IRAQ ISSUE

LD211048 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0855 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 21 Jan (SPA)--Islamic foreign ministers conference sources have stated that, in view of the absence of the Iranian delegation, the conference's political subcommittee has not yet discussed the article concerning the Iraqi-Iranian conflict which is on the conference's agenda.

The same sources explained that in case of the continued absence of the Iranian side, the conference will limit itself to having a general debate of the issue in an attempt to find a suitable solution for it. A general picture of the proposed solution will then be put before the Islamic summit.

Hammadi Comment

JN211721 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if--The political committee of the Islamic states foreign ministers ended its 5-hour morning meeting.

Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi told the INA team following the meeting that it was decided to postpone the discussion on the Iraq-Iranian dispute and refer it to the meetings of the third Islamic Conference summit, which will begin next Sunday.

Hammadi pointed out that several other issues, including the Eritrean issue, were discussed during the meeting.

An Iraqi proposal on bolstering and aiding the Eritrean issue was approved.

Hammadi added that the situation of the Muslims in the Philippines was also discussed.

The political committee will meet again this evening in order to discuss the Afghan issue in light of the report submitted to it by the special committee on Afghanistan.

CONFERENCE ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON AFGHANISTAN

LD211450 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1425 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Excerpt] At-Ta'if, 21 Jan (SPA)--The Islamic Conference's permanent committee dealing with the issue of Afghanistan today reached a resolution which can be a basis for a formula to settle the issue of Afghanistan. This was stated to SPA by the chairman of the committee and Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi. The Pakistani official declined to give any further details.

Afghan Alliance Request

GF211912 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] The Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan called for representation by the Afghan resistance in negotiations to be conducted on the solution of the Afghan issue. The alliance representatives announced that they submitted a request to be handed over to the third Islamic summit concerning the support for their legitimate struggle for the liberation of their country after the Communist Soviet invasion. They said they submitted a detailed report on their stand on their country's issue and on what they expect from the Islamic summit.

The alliance representatives urged all Islamic summit members not to take measures that will be considered a direct or indirect recognition of the illegimtate regime in Kabul.

DELEGATES COMMENT ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT'S AGENDA

Omani Minister

JN211016 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has denied that there is any intention at present to hold a Gulf summit on the sidelines of the third Islamic summit. He explained, however, that consultations among Gulf leaders continue during all Arab and Islamic meetings.

In a statement to the GULF NEWS AGENCY information team in At-Ta'if, the Omani minister said that Oman did not submit any working papers to the Islamic foreign ministers conference, now being held in At-Ta'if, but that Oman had made some remarks on the charter of the Islamic Conference Organization and the document on Jerusalem.

Az-Azwawi praised the results achieved so far by the Islamic foreign ministers conference and described them as effective and positive resolutions.

Eritrean Official

JN211418 Doha QNA in Arabic 1310 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Jan (QNA)--Mohamed Osman Abu Bakr, representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces [ELF-PLF] in the Gulf region, has announced that a joint delegation of the Eritrean revolution groups left Khartoum for Saudi Arabia today, in order to participate in the third Islamic Conference summit to be held on 25 January.

The delegation will include: Osman Saleh Sabbe, ELF-PLF chairman, and Ahmad Muhammad Nasser, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Revolutionary Council [ELF-RC].

In a statement to QNA, Abu Bakr stated that joint meetings were held between the leaders of the two groups in Khartoum this week, during which an agreement was reached on unity steps between the two groups in the coming stage and ways to bolster such a unity in the service of the Eritrean people's struggle.

Abu Bakr stressed the importance of the unity of the Eritrean revolution's groups in their confrontation of the current Ethiopian schemes, whose purpose is to liquidate the Eritrean issue. Abu Bakr pointed out that an Arab League delegation, comprising representatives of Tunisia, Morocco and Somalia, contacted the leaders of the three groups of the Eritrean revolution in Khartoum this week in oeder to prepare for the joint meeting which the Arab League will hold at its headquarters in Tunis to discuss steps that would guarantee the unity of the Eritrean revolution's groups.

The three Eritrean revolution groups are: the Popular Liberation Forces, the Revolutionary Council and the Popular Liberation Front.

Syria's Khaddam

JN211839 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during the convocation of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference in At-Ta'if, has called for opening the Arab fronts to Palestinian fedayeen action and for further intensifying this action in accordance with the Arab summits' resolutions, particularly the Tunis summit resolutions.

The PLO's representative to the conference, Faruq Qaddumi, has supported Khaddam's request, while the royal Jordanian regime's Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim firmly opposed this request under the pretext that such an action demands advance coordination among the Arab states.

UAE Minister

JN211921 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 21 Jan (GNA)--Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, has asserted that the issue of the three islands now occupied by Iran is an issue that concerns all the Islamic states, particularly since it constitutes a problem between two Islamic states.

Speaking in an inclusive interview with the GULF NEWS AGENCY mission in At-Ta'if, Rashid 'Abdallah said that we aim to acquaint the Islamic states with this issue because many states have no idea about this issue, its dimensions and causes. He added that we need much time to outline the historical circumstances and the UAE's right to the islands which have been occupied by Iran during the defunct shah's reign in 1971.

Rashid 'Abdallah expressed the hope that Iran will attend the Islamic Conference summit in order to discuss this issue in the presence of all the parties concerned. He further explained that the issue does not require the issuance of a resolution or statement expressing one point of view, but he said that it does require cooperation and a debate full of the Islamic spirit so that we can solve it in favor of the supreme Islamic interest and within the framework of Islamic solidarity.

Rashid 'Abdallah emphasized that if Iran attends the conference and if there is enough time, then we will request that the issue of the islands be discussed. However, on our part, we do not want to burden this important conference with this issue. Perhaps, together with the Iranian officials, we will be able to overcome this issue and solve it bilaterally in an Islamic manner and within the framework of our joint Gulf cooperation.

The UAE minister of state for foreign affairs denied that there was any intention to hold a Gulf-state summit on the margin of the Islamic Conference summit. Yet he explained that there should be meetings among the Arab kings and leaders with the aim of exchanging consultations and viewpoints regarding the various spheres. He said that those who will attend the Mecca conference will take part in an Islamic Conference summit and not an Arab or Gulf summit conference.

He reiteterated that the UAE's view of Gulf security is an agreement with the views of the other Gulf states. He said: We in the Gulf region see that this issue is important for us and concerns us as states and peoples, so we have to tackle it in our own way and manner for the sake of our interests.

Rashid 'Abdallah explained that the Gulf states foreign ministers' conference, which will be held at the beginning of the next month, will deal with the various issues that concern the Gulf region, in all spheres. He stressed that the Islamic Conference summit will exert every possible effort to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said that war is not desired by any party and that the bloodshed of Muslims is unacceptable.

Niger Minister

NC212035 Paris AFP in English 1948 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, 21 Jan (AFP)--Niger Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo today accused Libya, in front of the Islamic Conference meeting here, of using "the flag of Arabism and Islam" to destabilize parts of Africa.

Mr Diallo, who is vice-chairman of this preparatory meeting of the third Islamic summit, reportedly took a meeting of the political commission by surprise when he stood up to condemn Libya's "subversive activities in our region."

Libya has boycotted the conference for political reasons and this was the first occasion since the conference opened on Saturday that any of the 19 African delegations here had raised the issue of Libya's African policy or anything related to its proposed merger with Chad following the intervention of Tripoli's forces on the winning side during the closing days of the recent civil war.

Mr Diallo told AFP that in his statement to the commission, working on the draft agenda for the summit conference, he wanted "to make the conference aware of this reality and of the danger that it represents for the Islamic community and the Arab world."

"It has to be realised that (Libyan leader Mu'ammar) Al-Qadhdhafi is using the flag of Arabism and Islam to destablise the region," the minister said.

A Chadian delegation led by Acyl Ahmat, foreign minister in the transitional government, arrived here two days ago, ending speculation that it might be following Libya's lead.

(Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti said tonight that a delegation from Libya was on its way to At-Ta'if.)

In an earlier interview with AFP Mr Diallo said that the Chadian question had not been put before the conference and that African states concerned by developments in Chad did not "particularly want to discuss it" during the meeting.

However, he added that members of the Islamic Conference could not be indifferent to what was happening in the region.

FOREIGN MINISTERS DEPART AFTER AT-TA'IF CONFERENCE

GF212037 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Excerpts] The PDRY minister of foreign affairs, Salim Salih Muhammad, left At-Ta'if airport this afternoon after participating in the meetings of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference. He was seen off at the airport by Saudi Ambassador to the PDRY Shaykh Ibrahim al-'Abdallah at-Turki and representatives of the royal protocol.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais 'Abd al-Munim Zawai left At-Ta'if airport for Oman this afternoon after participating in the Islamic foreign ministers' conference meetings.

The Oman minister and the delegation accompanying him were seen off at the airport by Saudi Ambassador to Oman Muhammad al-Abdallah al-Mutlaq, Omani Ambassador to the Kingdom Ibrahim Bin Hamad al-Harithi and representatives of the royal protocol.

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah left At-Ta'if for Kuwait this evening after he led his country's delegation to the Islamic foreign ministers' conference meetings. He was seen off at the airport by the ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Ughali.

UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi left At-Ta'if this evening. He was seen off at the airport by Saudi Ambassador to the UAE Shaykh Muhammad Mansur ar-Rumayyih and representatives of the royal protocol.

AL-FAYSAL OUTLINES RESULTS AT PRESS CONFERENCE

LD212058 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1840 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 21 Jan (SPA)--His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, said that the conference's political committee has completed its work and studied the issues submitted to it, and issued recommendations concerning them to be submitted to the third Islamic summit in Mecca.

His royal highness was speaking at a press conference held at 2100 tonight in the big conference hall in At-Ta'if in which he reviewed the work of the economic, political and social committees of the conference.

His royal highness said that the political committee continued its meetings yesterday and today and recommended the submission of the report of the Jerusalem Committee and the draft resolution presented by Syria and the PLO on the Palestine problem and the Middle East, the issue of supporting Jerusalem and the issue of the Jerusalem fund to the summit conference for approval.

He added that the conference endorsed unanimously the resolution on the problems of the African coast countries and the draft resolution on the Comoro Island of Mayotte. He said that the conference referred the clause concerning Lebanon for discussion to the Islamic third summit. It also decided to refer the issue of the establishment of an Islamic court of justice to the summit and recommended that a study should be undertaken in this respect.

On the information plan his royal highness said that the conference decided that this matter should be referred to a discussion group, which would then report to the next Islamic foreign ministers' conference.

Concerning the amendment of the charter of the Islamic Conference Organization his royal highness said that agreement was reached on certain articles such as the term of office of the secretary general, which has been extended by 2 years to 4 subject to renewal by the next foreign ministers' conference, together with the rest of the articles of the charter if it is found necessary to amend it after the matter has been studied by the member countries.

His royal highness went on to say that agreement on the appointment of a fourth assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs was reached. It was also agreed that a session of the Islamic summit should be held every 3 years.

His royal highness said that consideration of the Cypriot problem has been postponed in the light of the Turkish attitude concerning the positive negotiations taking place at present in this respect.

His royal highness spoke about the work of the cultural committee and said that it met tonight and discussed matters concerning the support of the Islamic organization for education, sciences and culture. In this context the committee was acquainted with the detailed Moroccan memorandum in this field. It also discussed the holding of Islamic solidarity games among member countries and it was agreed to set up a subcommittee consisting of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iraq, the UAE, Tunisia, Gabon, Somalia, Gambia and revolutionary Guinea. He said that this committee will draw up the final form of the basic law of the Islamic solidarity union for sports.

His royal highness said that Saudi Arabia expressed readiness to organize the second tournament in 1983.

His royal highness spoke about the work of the economic committee and said that the work of this committee and of its drafting committee continued throughout the day, and that the final drafting of the economic cooperatioin program among Islamic countries and the draft agreement on the encouragement, guaranteeing and protection of investments in member countries, in addition to the draft resolution on the Union of Islamic Maritime Transporters have been completed in Jidda. His royal highness said that the economic committee will meet again tonight to consider endorsement of the final drafts of its resolutions. His royal highness pointed out that the study of the Mecca charter has been completed and it will be submitted to the conference today for approval and to be referred to the summit.

KLIBI ON ARAB RECONCILIATION EFFORT, REAGAN

LD191001 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 81 pp 1-2

[Interview given to Wafa'i Diyab by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi on 14 January in London]

[Excerpts] [Question] What progress has been made by the fraternal "good offices" committee in its endeavor to reconcile the Arab states, especially following its recent visits to Syria, Jordan and Iraq?

[Answer] In the wake of the Amman conference, which was not attended by six members, the Arab League General Secretariat acted on the recommendations made by the conference to form top-level committee for the restoration of Arab solidarity. I visited all the states that did not attend the conference and met with Brother Abu 'Ammar [PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat] and explained to them the role of the committee. Despite the fact that this committee was formed of leaders--King Khalid, President Chadli Bendjedid and the Arab League secretary general--it was deemed appropriate, as a first step, to charge the foreign ministers with the task. Therefore, the committee, at this ministerial level, moved and carried out an exploratory task in Baghdad, Amman and Damascus. It listened to the officials concerned and discussed in depth all the subjects related to Arab interests. After this tour a report was submitted to King Khalid and President Bendjedid containing the response of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, King Husayn of Jordan and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to this initiative.

What the committee is now preparing for is the building of a strong bridge for Arab cooperation in all fields. This bridge will ensure the continuation of the Arab march and joint action for the sake of the Palestine cause and the comprehensive development of the Arab homeland and everything that serves our national and pan-Arab issues. The committee will meet on 21 January to deliberate on how to build this bridge without letting the disputes jeopardize the process of solidarity.

[Question] But it is observed that the propaganda war has not stopped completely among some Arab states.

[Answer] That is true to a certain extent. Part of the committee's task at present is to tackle the Arab situation in three areas--the economic, political and information areas. The information area is very important and involves a comprehensive campaign to organize Arab informational relations in all aspects. I believe that if resolution and reason combine we will be able to achieve a positive result. Though this result might be complete in itself it would certainly, however, open the door to a new phase.

[Question] Will there be a specific plan for resolving the Arab disputes before the committee at its 21 January meeting?

[Answer] The main purpose of the meeting will be to draft the rules and regulations that will govern the relations and dealings among the Arab states on the basis of a charter derived from the principles common to all the Arab states and to attempt to translate these principles into practical rules and clear controls that will regulate Arab relations in all fields.

[Question] Is there any intention to draw up a charter for coexistence among the Arab regimes, such as what happened at the Rabat conference?

[Answer] Instead of a charter we will in fact combine the results of all the Arab summits--an abundant and rich product--and derive from them practical principles and clear regulations which will leave little room for interpretation, so as to regulate joint action in all fields.

[Question] What are the results of your visit to Britain and your meeting with British officials? Is your visit connected with the European initiative regarding the crisis in the area?

[Answer] My visit to London this time was first to meet with British officials and second to open channels for a dialogue with the opposition Labor Party following the recent change in its leadership our discussions dealt with all the subjects relating to our Arab issues, particularly the Arab-European dialogue and the initiative which the European community intends to make.

[Question] Do you believe that this initiative is now imminent?

[Answer] It is difficult for us to give a definitive answer on this matter at present, but what we can say is that the European states are making a serious endeavor and this calls for respect.

[Question] Do you think that American policy has changed with the arrival of President Reagan at the White House?

[Answer] It is difficult to express an opinion now about the new American policy. Political predictions are a difficult and serious art that is subject to error. However, what some American personalities have told me is that contemporary U.S. history has established that what the U.S. presidential candidate does during the elections campaign is different from what he does during his term of office. This could also apply to President Reagan.

I believe that the most important rule to be followed in this respect is for the American people to know that their real interests, as a people of one of the two superpowers, are not always identical to the interests of another state--Israel. If this fact is understood, I believe that everything is possible for the Middle East.

JORDANIAN, PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE 'SUSPENDED'

JN191322 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Kuwait--Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad], Fatah Central Committee member, has affirmed that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue has been suspended for quite some time.

In the second part of an interview he granted to the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, the Fatah official accused Jordanian intelligence of arresting 300 fedayeen every week and attempting to recruit Palestinian doctors working in Kuwait.

Abu Iyad added that there is no solution to the issue in the absence of the Palestinians.

He stressed that the Palestinian revolution adopted a decision to execute all those dealing with the enemy and the Camp David accords.

Abu Iyad denied reports that Palestinians had participated in the Iraqi-Iranian war on the side of any party, saying: Our stand is firm; namely, that this war should be stopped since no one is benefitting from it. Indeed, such a war is destructive to the Palestinian issue since the two states are important to us as strategic reserves for any battle with the Zionist enemy.

He again attacked the plot of the Jordanian option, saying: Some suspect papers are promoting this option. He pointed out that any Palestinian leader, cadre or individual trying to whiten the Jordanian page will be working within the framework of the Jordanian option.

KUWAIT

PAPER ON EFFECTS OF HOSTAGE SITUATION ON MIDEAST

LD201420 Kuwait KUNA in English 1046 GMT 20 Jan 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Jan (KUNA)--AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on the hostage affair:

"Jimmy Carter leaves office today making the curtain (?facing) the [words indistinct] of the American hostages in Tehran. This hostage affair has (?exposed) the superpower which claims to be the pioneer of freedom and right as (?having) committed several crimes under the pretext of protecting those hostages. In fact, the U.S. has made the problem of holding (?52 Americans) by Tehran the issue of the era, at a time when it is (?violating) all human rights in Palestine and the Arab world in general.

"What did Tehran gain (?from) this play? It ended it by accepting funds less than those frozen by Washington in the aftermath of the seizure of the embassy. Iran had given the U.S. the justification to freeze its funds, thus encouraging it to exploit this weapon in future to threaten Arab countries having assets in the U.S. Tehran had also given the U.S. the opportunity to implement the first part of the Camp David accords by isolating Egypt from the [words indistinct] and diverting the attention of [words indistinct] to minor disputes in their fight against Zionism.

Washington seized this situation to spread its military bases and mass its fleets in the region extending from Egypt to the Arabian Gulf and the African Horn. Meanwhile the Soviet Union found the time ripe to move towards Afghanistan and escalate the tension in the region. All this caused Arab potential to weaken and this is of great advantage to our enemy, Israel. Moreover, the tension in the region reached a boiling point when this superpower ignited the war between the two neighbouring Islamic countries, Iraq and Iran, in order to give a stronger push to the Camp David plan.

"All this had been committed by the U.S. in the name of the hostages while Tehran is returning humbly to the American (?camp). Anyhow, the end of this well-planned play will not mean that everything is settled, but is an indication of a more serious and dangerous stage the region will pass through."

SAUDI ARABIA

KHALID, FAHD CONGRATULATE REAGAN; 'UKAZ COMMENTARY

Khalid Message

LD211438 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1205 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 21 Jan (SPA)--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has sent a cable to His Excellency U.S. President Ronald Reagan congratulating him on his assumption of duties as President of the United States. Follows the text of the cable:

His excellency, President Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, Washington:

I have pleasure in taking the opportunity of Your Excellency's assumption of your constitutional duties as President of the United States of America to send you in the name of the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in my name sincerest congratulations and best wishes for your health and happiness and more progress and prosperity to the friendly people of the United States of America, hoping that Your Excellency's era will be an era of propserity for your friendly people and an era of security, peace and stability for the entire world.

I would like to reaffirm to Your Excellency that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has very strong ties of friendship and friendly relations with the United States of America, will always remain as ever sincere in preserving and consolidating the strong links between our two friendly countries, as well as further bolstering these links.

In conclusion I wish Your Excellency happiness and success, with sincere appreciation.

[Signed] Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Fahd Message

LD211440 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 21 Jan (SPA)--His Royal Highness Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has sent a cable to U.S. President Ronald Reagan congratulating him on assuming the presidency of the United States. Following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency, President Ronald Reagan, the U.S. President, Washington. It pleases me to seize the opportunity of your assumption of the presidency of the United States to convey to you my sincerest congratulations and wishes for your personal happiness and good health and more prosperity for the friendly American people.

Your Excellency, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has the strongest and most deeply established ties of friendship with the United States, looks upon your era with full optimism and hopes that this era will be the beginning of good security, prosperity and stability in our Middle East in particular and the whole world in general, God willing. Assuring Your Excellency that the kingdom will always remain as it is, anxious to consolidate the strong ties of its relations with the United States and its friendly people.

Accept, Mr President, my sincerest greetings and admiration.

[Signed] Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, crown prince and deputy prime minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

'UKAZ Commentary

LD211326 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0655 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Jan (SPA)--'UKAZ in its commentary deals with the new American President, Ronald Reagan, taking up his duties as President of the United States. It says that at the time that Reagan takes up his post many vital issues, which often require just vision and well-defined course, emerge in front of him [words indistinct] the international situation and affecting world peace. 'UKAZ stresses that through President Reagan's objective understanding of the basis on which the huge mountain of problems facing his administration could be solved, he is bound to restore the American role in exercising its international policy to support peace, security and stability in the world.

The paper says that the Middle East question is bound to receive the concern of the American administration directed toward active participation in establishing a just and comprehensive peace consonant with the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the rights of the whole Islamic nation in restoring holy Jerusalem occupied by the Israeli enemy. The paper stresses that the road to just peace in the region is completely linked with correct and just scales for all international powers out of concern for international security and stability. [sentence indistinct] It points out the Zionist responsibility in balancing genuine peace trends based on justice and respect for human rights everywhere.

UAE

PLO'S SALAH KHALAF ARRIVES FOR TALKS 19 JAN

GF191357 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Salah Khalaf--Abu Iyad--Fatah Central Committee member, arrived in the UAE from At-Ta'if today on a visit that will last several days as part of his current tour of area countries. During his visit Abu Iyad will hold talks with government officials on the latest Palestinian developments on the Arab and international levels.

He was received at the airport by Foreign Ministry officials and the PLO representative in the UAE, Ribhi 'Awad.

20 Jan Meeting

JN201750 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1257 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Jan (GNA)--Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, representative of his highness the UAE president in Abu Dhabi, met today with PLO Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, who is currently visiting the emirates.

The current Arab situation in general and the developments of the Palestine cause in the Arab and international arenas in particular were reviewed during the meeting.

The Palestinian official acquainted As-Suwaydi with the situation of the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon in the light of the repeated Zionist attacks against the Palestinians and the nationalist Lebanese forces.

PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS RELATIONS WITH SAUDIS

LD211433 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 18 Jan 81 p 7

[Interview given to Ayman Muhammad Habib by PDRY Foreign Minister Salim Salih Muhammad--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Your Excellency, the Islamic summit conference will discuss the incorporation of the call for a jihad into a working program that will contribute to regaining Jerusalem and other Arab territories. How do you view the features of this program?

[Answer] The jihad, as you have said, aims at regaining Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories. For this reason, we believe that the program for achieving this aim hinges on the adoption of a policy of comprehensive confrontation that will compel the enemy and those backing him to recognize Arab rights. This necessitates the utilization of all the available Arab weapons and the polarization of the world public opinion, both official and popular, in support of these aims.

[Question] Despite the exchange of visits and the constant contracts between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the PDRY, there are those who are trying to give the impression that your country is dealing with the kingdom in an unfriendly manner at a time when we feel that we are sincere brothers of all our brothers. How would you answer those persons and could you give some details, please?

[Answer] For our part, we have been and continue to be eager to have natural and good bilateral relations between us and our brothers in the kingdom, based on mutual respect for national independence and sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs and work for the consolidation of security and stability in the area. The visit which Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister, has paid to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has confirmed our desire and eagerness to cement these principles and to develop the bilateral relations between our two fraternal countries. However, some circles that are hostile to our two fraternal countries' aspirations to establish such relations are trying to obstruct these efforts and to disseminate fabricated propaganda against the PDRY and its leaders and its stances. They are also trying to return the state of affairs to what it was in the past and to disturb the atmosphere between the two fraternal countries--a matter which contradicts the stance of the leaderships of the two countries and the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples.

[Question] Your disagreement with Oman and Iraq is due to the difference of views on various issues between you and them; yet, we believe that the elements of agreement among all our countries exist. On what do you agree and on what do you differ?

[Answer] We differ with Oman for reasons that are now known to everybody. Our disagreement with it revolves around permission for the establishment of bases and the granting of military facilities to the United States on Omani territories and also about Oman's support for the Camp David agreement, to the extent that it has engaged in irresponsible provocations against neighboring states. As for our relations with Iraq, this is a different matter altogether. Some problems have arisen and these have affected the fraternal relations between the two countries. However, our relations with Iraq continue to exist and the embassies in Baghdad and Aden are operating normally. For our part, we are eager not to let the relations between the two fraternal countries deteriorate and we hope that they will return to normal soon.

[Question] The PDRY has special relations with the Soviet Union. There are those who believe that the Afghan issue has brought about differences in the stances of the Arab and Islamic states on this issue. How can we reconcile the stances of our states with respect to their major cause if our views on other issues do not agree?

[Answer] Frankly, we believe that the main reason for the developments of the situation in Afghanistan is the interference of the traditional imperialist forces. We share the view that guaranteed noninterference in the affairs of the independent state of Afghanistan is a basic condition for the restoration of normalcy there. We believe that the more the imperialist states interfere in the affairs of independent states the more the peoples of these states will ask for help in preserving their soveriegnty and independence, in accordance with the spirit of the UN Charter and international norms. However, we view Pakistan's declaration of its readiness to enter into a dialogue with Afghanistan as a suitable way for resolving the Afghan problem. We hope that this will receive the support of the other states.

[Question] U.S. President Reagan will soon enter the White House. Your Excellency, how do you view the new American Government's stance on the Middle East and its various issues through Reagan's statements about the existence of a new Camp David initiative?

[Answer] It appears that the Arabs tend to embellish images and stances (I believe that you share this view with me). The new American administration has declared at an early stage its biased stance with regard to the Zionist enemy and its flagrant hostility to the Palestinian cause and its determination to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist enemy. This is in addition to the recent statements made by the next U.S. secretary of state about U.S. intentions to interfere in our area. All this is a tangible indication of U.S. partiality toward the Zionist enemy. We do not see any change in the stance of the new U.S. administration. On the contrary, its hostility to our just causes will intensify.

STATE COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION ESTABLISHED

LD202140 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today issued an order of the Supreme People's Council providing for the establishment of a State Committee for Information. The first article of the order stipulates that there shall be established in the republic a central information organ to be called the State Committee for Information to be regarded as a member of the Council of Ministers [yutabaru udwan fi majlis al-wuzara] and to be constituted from the following organs: the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, the radio and TV; the 14 October Corporation for printing, publishing, distribution and advertising and the 14 OCTOBER newspaper.

The other articles stipulate the abolition of the state committee for radio and TV and state that the Council of Ministers will issue regulations defining the tasks, jurisdictions and duties of the State Committee for Information. The order is effective from the date of its issue and shall be published in the official gazette.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also issued an order of the Supreme People's Council on the appointment of a chairman for the State Council for Information. The first article of the order provides for the appointment of Brother Muhammad Abd al-Qawi as chairman of the State Committee for Information. The other articles stipulate that the order is effective from the date of its issue and shall be published in the official gazette.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also issued a ministerial decree providing for the appointment of Brother Salih Ahmad Salah as chairman of the board and general manager of the 14 October Corporation for printing, publishing, distribution and advertising. The decree stipulates the cancellation of any previous appointment to this post and stipulates that it becomes operative from the date of its issue and shall be published in the official gazette.

AS-SADAT CABLES REAGAN ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

NC221154 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has sent the following cable of congratulations to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on the occasion of the release of the U.S. hostages:

I have received with pleasure the news of the release of the U.S. hostages. My people and I have followed with interest the efforts which were exerted to solve this problem within a framework that would preserve human dignity and be consistent with the principles of international law.

We thank God that these efforts were crowned with success. We hope that this occasion would be the start of a new chapter in international relations based on common understanding and the solution of conflicts by peaceful means for the establishment of security and peace in the world.

Please, Your Excellency, accept my sincerest regards coupled with my best wishes to you for good health and happiness and further progress and esteem for your friendly people under your wise leadership.

With my highest esteem and regards.

REZA SHAH II COMMENTS ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

NC211518 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)--His Majesty Emperor Reza Shah II has expressed his happiness over the release of the U.S. diplomats who were taken hostage by Iran and over their safe return to their families and country. The shah said: It is regrettable that the ordeal to which the hostages were subjected was initiated in the name of the Iranian people, although there is no action like this action which contradicts the belief and traditions of the Iranian people and, at the same time, contradicts all international moral and legal standards which govern human actions and behavior.

His majesty the shah expressed profound sorrow for the suffering and agony which his beloved people are enduring and hoped that this nightmare would end very soon. The shah also expressed confidence that the Iranian people will not continue to be treated as hostages in their country, by virtue of God's will and the efforts of the Iranian people which stem from their deep patriotism. He said that the Iranian people, who believe in their freedom, independence and territorial integrity, will liberate their country from the forces of oppression and darkness.

AS-SADAT SPEAKS TO ASWAN FISHERMEN 21 JAN

NC211543 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Aswan 21 Jan (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has affirmed that the Egyptian people have set an example for other Islamic peoples in defending Islam and standing with their brothers in Afghanistan. Addressing the fishermen of the High Dam lake, President as-Sadat said: I am proud of you, as sons of the people, because you have set an example in sacrifice when you stood with the people of Afghanistan. This came in a short speech which President as-Sadat delivered today during his meeting with the fishermen of the High Dam lake during his third tour of the city of Aswan. The following is the text of President as-Sadat's speech:

In the name of God. My sons the fishermen, happy new year. We will meet every year, God willing. I am happy and greatly proud of you, because you have implemented with honor and honesty the objectives on which we have agreed. Today, you made donations to the people of Afghanistan.

One society donated 10,000 pounds; another society donated 1,000 pounds. This is a great help to your brothers the strugglers in Afghanistan.

This is Egypt's genuine feeling. This is Egypt's faith. Muslims should act like brothers. The donations which you made--10,000 pounds from one society and another 1,000 pounds from another society--will make me always remember you. Your people, as well as your brothers the strugglers in Afghanistan whose women, children, houses and mosques are being crushed by Soviet tanks, will also always remember you.

The fishermen of the lake have made these donations. This is the spirit of the Egypt, the spirit of the family in Egypt, the spirit of generosity in Egypt and the spirit of brotherhood in Egypt. You have thus set the best example to the rulers of certain Islamic governments and peoples. Regrettably, these rulers are siding with the Soviet Union against the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

I am proud of the fishermen of the lake. The rulers of Syria, Libya and South Yemen and the Palestinians--I mean the PLO--regrettably are siding with the Soviet Union against the Muslim people of Afghanistan. I am telling them, while they are meeting now in an Islamic conference, that the people of the lake, the High Dam lake, have raised high the banners of Egypt and Islam. I give you all my love. I am proud of you and your country is proud of you.

One of you--you know him; he is 'Ali Ruzayq, the sheikh of fishermen in Alexandria--has become a member of the Consultative Council. You have taken your place in your country so that you may participate in the decisionmaking process and in building the prosperity of your country.

When we started holding such meetings, I asked that the fishermen should be covered by social insurance. Is the money available? Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation, answered that there are half a million pounds available.

President as-Sadat then asked: There is one more thing; Are there any fishermen who are not covered by a pension? One fisherman answered: The fishermen are covered by social insurance. Some people give loans to fishermen. We want the [social insurance] fund to cover everybody.

The president said: We must give protection to my sons, the fishermen. The sheikhs can give loans [to fishermen].

Another fisherman then spoke. The president answered: I am glad that every fisherman will have a pension. This is my objective. The second thing, Sabri--pointing to the governor of Aswan--discuss it with Taha--pointing to Engineer Ahmad Taha, chairman of the High Dam Lake Development Board.

President as-Sadat then said: What is the objective? The objective is that we are one family from Alexandria to the cataract [in southern Egypt]. Our objective is that we are all one family and that we support each other.

You are right. I have declared that it is my responsibility to provide a decent life for every citizen in Egypt--in the deserts, in the villages, in the towns. The people must be be insured against diability, old age, sickness and death.

I am proud of you and of the donations which you have made. Not only I but all of Egypt is proud of you. The entire Arab Muslim people and the Islamic world, which is composed of 800 million Muslims, are proud of you. They will hear my talk and they will know that my sons the fishermen in the High Dam lake have donated 11,000 pounds to their brothers in Afghanistan, despite their hardship and poverty.

The sheikh of the fishermen said: We are sorry, because this sum is too small. We wish our donation to Afghanistan could have been bigger. The president answered: Never, this is a source of pride to you, to me and to all Egypt. God willing, we will meet every year and we will implement all your demands about which your sheikh has spoken.

The fishermen then asked that their meeting with the president be held every 6 months. The president answered: I will try, God willing, and happy new year.

AS-SADAT MEETS ECONOMIC CONFERENCE MEMBERS 21 JAN

NC212219 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2121 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat met today with leaders and members of the delegations taking part in the international economic conference in Aswan.

The meeting was also attended by the deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid, and the deputy prime minister for production and the minister of petroleum, Engineer 'Izz ad-Din Hilal. It has been learned that President as-Sadat has thanked the countries that supported Egypt before, during and after 1973. The president also lauded the constructive participation of the countries that had cleared the Suez Canal--making it suitable for navigation.

The president also discussed Egypt's current economic strategies, saying that Eygpt is giving complete precedence to food security projects and housing--including land reclamation and the establishment of new societies. The president added that on 29 January he will announce important news with regard to land reclamation and food security projects in the As-Salihiyah area.

The president noted that Egypt is keen on organizing the [Egyptian] family. He also noted Egypt's interest in energy and petroleum. President as-Sadat added that we are earmarking part of the additional petroleum revenues to establish nuclear power stations and major projects--such as the Munkhafad al-Qattarah project [the Al-Qattarah depression] which will yield energy in addition to the electric energy generated by the upper [Aswan] dam.

The president noted Japan's stance with regard to financing, clearing and expanding the Suez Canal. He added that the forthcoming project to be undertaken by Japan will be the new sponge project in (Ad-Dakhilah).

The president noted the role played by banks in the Federal Republic of Germany--which helped rebuild Germany after World War II.

Further on Meeting, Plans

NC220812 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2314 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has affirmed that Egypt will achieve self-sufficiency in food security in 1982 and that Egypt will enter the stage of importing agricultural products to all the European countries.

In his meeting with members of the international economic conference, which concluded its meetings in Aswan today, President as-Sadat explained that Egypt is currently spending $2 billion annually to import food, whereby it used to export food.

The president noted that by achieving food security, reclaiming the desert and establishing new societies the housing problem will be solved with regard to accommodating future generations.

President as-Sadat said that Egypt possesses the capabilities and natural resources to enable it to perform a miracle, and that Egypt will certainly need technological know-how.

During the meeting, President as-Sadat also reviewed Egypt's stance since 1972.

The president noted that Egypt's oil revenues will amount to $12 billion 5 years from now.

SOURCE DENIES ISRAELI SINAI VIOLATION CHARGE

NC212151 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)--A responsible source has denied statements made by the chairman of the Israeli Knesset's Defense and Foreign Relations Committee, Moshe Arens, to the effect that the Egyptian side is continuously and deliberately violating the peace agreement in the Sinai and that these violations are endangering the peace agreement. The Egyptian source said these [statements] are fabrications that have no foundation whatsoever.

The source, who was replying to a question concerning these statements, said that the fact that the Israeli Defense Ministry itself has denied these allegations and affirmed that, contrary to these statements, Egypt its adhering to the peace treaty, is the best testimony to the fact that the aforementioned Israeli official was weaving fabrications that have no foundation. The source added that such statements indicate the existence of some elements in Israel which are still trying to impede peace and the efforts to normalize relations. The source further said that these elements, which have previously attempted to thwart the peace process and put various obstacles in its path, are still carrying on with their practices in Israel.

DELEGATION TO ISRAEL ISSUES STATEMENT, DEPARTS

PreDeparture Statement

NC191758 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1618 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)--The Egyptian parliamentary delegation, which will leave for Israel today under the leadership of the chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, has issued a statement on the occasion of the 1-week visit it will pay to Israel at the invitation of the Israeli Knesset. The statement asserts that the object of the visit is to add a new dimension to the framework of clarifying the Egyptian point of view so as to emphasize the goodwill of the Egyptian people represented by their deputies. The following is the text of the statement:

On the basis of Egypt's principled policy stemming from our faith that the realization of peace for all peoples of the world in general and the people of the Middle East region in particular is an essential and vital necessity and in view of the desire of our Arab nation to achieve a comprehensive and just peace, the Egyptian parliamentary delegation will visit the State of Israel in response to an invitation by the Knesset which was addressed to the People's Assembly during President Navon's visit.

The Egyptian parliamentary delegation emphasizes that a just and comprehensive peace can only be established if a just solution is found to all aspects of the Palestinian question, which is the core and essence of the Middle East problem.

As representatives of the Egyptian people, with all its communities, we affirm that we pursue a policy based on humanitarian, ethical and legal principles and that all the constitutional institutions and political organizations in Egypt adopt and believe in these principles and are determined to implement them out of their faith and conviction that the only civilized and practical way to establish a comprehensive and just peace is to hold discussions and negotiations and exchange views and then allow popular diplomacy to play a role which has its weight in bringing the views close together and in addressing public opinion.

As representatives of the Egyptian people we assert that the comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East can only be established within the framework of the two Camp David accords. The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel is only a step along this path which will be followed by other steps, the most important of which is the realization of full autonomy for the Palestinian people as an interim period. This is the first basic step along the path of durable peace.

We in the Egyptian People's Assembly have previously asserted our adherence to the inalienable legal international principle on the impermissibility of the acquisition of land by war. This principle is stipulated in the UN Charter and is embodied in Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 and Resolution 338 of 1973.

We have also supported Security Council Resolution 465 and 1 March 1980 rejecting any change in the geographical, demographic or legal status of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. We have also supported all of the Security Council's other resolutions on Jerusalem. The last was Resolution 478, dated 20 August 1980, which denounces Israel's measures on Jerusalem and demands it to back down on them. We wish to express our opinion very clearly that Arab Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the Arab territories which were occupied in 1967 and that the measures which the Israeli Government and Knesset adopted in their regard run counter to what is right and to reality and contravene the spirit and context of all the international agreements and resolutions. These measures also are incompatible with the letter and spirit of the Camp David agreements and are a violation of the most basic rules of the rights of man and social justice.

The object of our visit to Israel is to add a new dimension to the framework of clarifying the Egyptian point of view by making this clarification on the popular level in addition to the government level so as to emphasize the goodwill of the Egyptian people represented in their deputies and members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council and their sincere desire to achieve a durable and comprehensive peace in the area and enable the realization of the rights of all peoples, including the Arab and Palestinian peoples, in implementation of the Camp David agreements and crystallization of the will of the international society which yearns for peace and security in this area that is sensitive to international peace and security.

God is the giver of success.

19 Jan Departure

NC192052 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)--An Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by Chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah left Cairo for Israel tonight for a week-long visit. Prior to the departure, the delegation's leader said that the visit comes within the framework of activating the Middle East peace issue and in order to explain Egypt's stand on rejecting the annexation of Jerusalem and the building of settlements. He added that the delegation will meet Knesset members of various persuasions. The delegation includes 10 members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council.

CHADIAN AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT CRITICIZES LIBYA

NC221004 Paris AFP in English 0947 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (AFP)--The Chadian ambassador to Egypt, Homsala Ouangmotching, today accused Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of seeking to annex Chad by imposing a merger plan as a fait accompli.

"Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's progression in the heart of black Africa is not only a threat for Chad, which he has successfully destabilised, but it is a real danger for the security of other neighbouring states," he said in a communique released here.

The Libyan leader had always coveted Chad and Libyan policy now aimed at eclipsing that country, he added.

Mr Quangmotching called for the Chadian people to rise against what he called "Libya's treachery" and called on Africa and its friends to act before it is too late.

Egypt has repeatedly attacked the merger plan for the two countries, which was announced in Tripoli on January 6 at the end of a visit by Chadian transitional President Goukouni Queddei.

BUTRUS GHALI RETURNS FROM LATIN AMERICA 21 JAN

NC210648 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali returned to Cairo early this morning from Paris following a 3-week tour of Latin America to the states of Argentina, Mexico, Peru and Chile.

NEW OIL DISCOVERIES TO INCREASE EGYPT'S INCOME

LD191005 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jan 81 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Oil Discoveries Increase Egypt's Oil Revenue to 12 Billion Pounds"]

[Excerpt] At a meeting lasting 5 hours yesterday the cabinet, headed by Vice President Husni Mubarak, discussed the new oil discoveries and their effect on the national economy. A report submitted by Deputy Prime Minister for Production and Minister of Petroleum Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal said that the new discoveries increase Egypt's oil revenue from 7 to 12 billion pounds and provide about 50 percent of the finance necessary for the 5-year development plan and the development of public utilities and services. The deputy prime minister and minister of petroleum said that the new fields will need 2 years development before they can be commercially exploited. He said that these discoveries will encourage foreign companies to carry on exploring for oil and gas in the Gulf of Suez and Red Sea area, since these discoveries cover no more than one-third of the Gulf of Suez area.

Minister of State for Culture Mansur Hasan stated after the cabinet meeting, which was for the first time attended by Minister of State for Finance Fu'ad Kamal Husayn and Minister of State for Economy Dr Sulayman Nur ad-Din, that 'Izz ad-Din Hilal's report confirms that the oil revenue together with revenues from the Suez Canal and from money transfers by Egyptians working abroad will provide strong financial resources which will enable the Egyptian economy to rely on self-financing for development programs. The greater part of these resources will be devoted to rebuilding the infrastructure of the society and developing utilities and public services which have greatly deteriorated.

BRIEFS

GABONESE ARMY MISSION--Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)--Chief of staff of the Gabonese Armed Forces Idris Bukhari arrived in Cairo tonight at the head of a military delegation for a visit to Egypt lasting several days. During this visit, the Gabonese guest will hold talks with Egyptian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Abu Ghazalah on military relations between the two countries. The Gabonese Army chief of staff was met at the airport by the chief of staff of the central military district, Maj Gen Abir Zuhdi, and the Gabonese ambassador in Cairo. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 2017 GMT 19 Jan 81 NC]

SADDAM HUSAYN INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI JOURNALISTS

GF180634 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Jan 81 pp 8-10, 21

[Interview granted by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to editors in chief of Kuwaiti papers in the National Assembly in Baghdad on 14 January 1981--dispatch by AL-QABAS editor in chief Jasim Ahmad an-Nisf]

[Excerpts] President Saddam Husayn's talk with the editors in chief of Kuwaiti papers was an open and frank dialogue between the Iraqi president and the Kuwaiti press. The roots of the interview go back more than 2 months when the editors in chief of Kuwaiti newspapers met with President Saddam during the Arab summit conference in Amman. The Iraqi president then promised to invite the Kuwaiti press to a comprehensive dialogue in Baghdad in which he would discuss current issues in the Gulf, Arab and international arenas.

At 1915 last Wednesday President Saddam Husayn received the editors in chief of Kuwaiti papers in the small hall at the National Assembly in Baghdad. A frank and straightforward dialogue took place in the course of 2 and 1/4 hours during which the Iraqi president opened his heart to the Kuwaiti press, which he distinguished from among the other Arab press as special and positive. He was not irritated by any question and asserted that he was very patient and ready to answer any question. All that President Saddam asked from the editors in chief was to write all that he says without any changes. He said: "Either you write everything as it is or you do not write anything at all. If you decide for any reason not to publish a particular paragraph do not put in its place words which I did not say."

The Iraqi president added: "It is possible that you may not like my answer to one of your questions, or that circumstances do not allow you [to publish it] for some reason. Then omit both question and answer, but do not fragment the answer in a manner that distorts its gist, and do not substitute one word for another, or attribute to an official words that he did not say. This is the only thing that angers me. Just as in military life nothing angers me more than hesitation. When an officer makes a judgment, and his judgment leads to the annihalation of an entire unit, I do not become angry. But I do become angry when an officer hesitates in the face of an objective toward which he is required to advance."

The dialogue was attended by Iraqi Revolution Command Council Secretary Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nasif Jasim and the director general of the press and information department in the presidency, Sabah Salman.

The beginning of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's meeting with the Kuwaiti press was frank and gave the entire discussion a character of objective frankness. The Koranic verse "They shall decide their affairs by consulting among themselves" that was hanging on the wall suggested the question. Although the question was frank and inflammatory, the Iraqi president welcomed it and answered it with equal frankness.

[Question] Mr President, we can see in the room the Koranic verse "They shall decide their affairs by consulting among themselves." Does this verse reflect the situation in Iraq or is the first and last word for Saddam Husayn?

[Answer] You want us to begin our discussion with this topic. Well, first I witness that there is no God but God.

[Question] What prompted this question is that the Western press often says that there is no democracy or consultation in the countries of the Third World, and that the prevalent view is always that of the leader or president of these countries.

[Answer] What do we as an Arab nation specifically need? Before we talk about the means we should talk about the end. The verse "They shall decide their affairs by consulting among themselves" does not negate the leader's role.

They say in the West that there is a dictatorship in Iraq, and there is a bloody regime in Iraq. I'll be frank with you as usual. You know what this country was like 13 years ago--it was the poorest country with a secondary role in the Arab world. Internationally, it had a shaky position and lacked self-confidence. The parties were bickering and fighting. There was internecine fighting. The seeds of all forms of social disease were growing. This was the state of the country 13 years ago.

You also know what the country is like now. It is prosperous. We do not have people who have millions or billions of dinars, but the whole people feel happy. Happiness exists in the eyes of children, women, men, in the eyes of the old and in the eyes of young girls and boys.

Our war is the first since the Second World War that has lasted into its 5th month. Today is 14 January, and the war began on 4 September 1980. Thus, 9 days have elapsed since the beginning of the 5th month of the war. It is the first war to last so long. The men who are said to fear Saddam Husayn and his repressive apparatus in Baghdad--if they fear Baghdad and the repression--they are now on the edge of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and in Qasr-e Sharin and Al-Muhammarah, in Sumar and in Mehran, and on the edge of Dezful and Ahvaz. They are far from me. Anyone of them could at least refuse to fight until death. If what is said or written is true, that intimidation has made people support Saddam Husayn, would intimidation make them go out and demonstrate in the streets? If intimidation makes them to out to the streets would it make them shout from their hearts? If intimidation makes them shout slogans would it make them fight the enemy 110 km inside his territory?

The regime here differs from other Arab countries in dealing with treason. Here, anyone who extends his hand to the foreigner we chop his head off. The laws on this are clear, and we take pride in these laws. We cannot be patriots and allow some people to deal with the foreigner and remain silent while we know who they are. They should be referred to the court and tried according to the law. The law here stated that anyone who deals with the foreigner without the state's knowledge is considered to have committed treason and will accordingly be sentenced to death. Anyone who uses arms to bring down the regime will be executed. It is up to us to pardon some or pass on others a lesser sentence than that. Our laws state that anyone who seeks to overthrow the regime by the force of arms will be executed.

Therefore, we believe in the verse "They shall decide their affairs by consulting among themselves." Believe me, I would have told you without fearing anything. The worst that could happen is that the party would say to me: We do not want you. I am prepared at the same time to immediately declare any issue on which I may differ with the party and I accept to give up my position in return for what I believe in. We believe in this [Koranic] concept and apply it in the party command. But I say regarding this concept--according to the way we understand it in our Islamic Arab history, and as we understand it in our Ba'thist line, and we have written about it in our published books, including those written by Saddam Husayn before he became Iraq's first man, when he was the second man--I say: We should pay attention to two matters: The role of the leader, and the role of the leadership. The leadership should not negate the leader's role, and the leader's role should not negate collective leadership.

[Question from AL-QABAS] Mr President, the war has entered its 5th month. Did the leadership think the war would last so long? As an Arab and a Kuwaiti, who like every other citizen takes pride in belonging to this nation, I would like to be assured about the military situation, supplies and capabilities so our brothers in the Gulf can be assured.

[Answer] I would like to reassure you about your army and your brothers. Our positions now are more solid than they were in the first 3 weeks of the war. Our ability to inflict losses on the enemy now is greater than they were in the first 3 weeks. The enemy's losses these past weeks have been much greater than the losses sustained in the first 3 weeks of the war. The Iraqis' faith in their ability to continue is greater now than it was during the 1st month. I am not remote from Iraq. The bitterness left by the Iranian government's behavior has made a section of our people not want to give up the Iranian territories because of the bad behavior of the Tehran rulers. They committed aggression against us on 4 September 1980 and shelled Iraqi cities. The cities that were shelled are known. They announced them in their official communiques. What one can say is that they did not accurately evaluate their strength. They did not plan for Iraq's reaction. Iraq reacted and its reaction was understood from the 1st week. An army attacked another army. The opposing army was defeated, and the Iraqi Army entered Iranian territory. Of course, the Iraqi Army's penetration of Iranian territory was less than it is now. The Iranians were told, please have these territories back but establish new relations with the Arabs. Return to them their occupied territories. Return to Iraq its usurped rights and territories. We are returning to what we should be returning to. They refused. Many forces, and above all the Western press, put ideas into their head: The depth of Iranian territory, the winter, the time factor. Unfortunately, all these calculations were based on history. Part of these calculations did not take into account the development, the new development, that has occurred in Iraq's spirit.

The second point was founded on the old basis of the old means of transportation and communications. Some 500 or 1,000 years ago the depth of Iranian territory used to defeat anyone advancing from Iraq. They used to travel on horses, camels, mules and donkeys. They did not have the ability to build paved roads inside Iranian territory as we do now.

The Iraqi soldier is fully equipped. His food is excellent. He is cared for administratively 24 hours a day. What is available to the Iraqi on the frontline is what is available to citizens who are well-off in Baghdad. On the other hand, Iranian soldiers are faring badly. Their clothes are shabby, and their health, administration and food are poor. Now we cannot say have you calculated for such a long time or not, because it has been a long time--if the length of time was not taken into account we would not be sitting in Baghdad.

[Question from AL-QABAS] What about military equipment?

[Answer] We do not suffer from the lack of anything, thank God. Everything is available; everything is good; everything is right and proceeding as planned. We are fighting.

[Question from AL-QABAS] Iraq has a military agreement with the Soviet Union, but the Soviet Union has not rendered any assistance. It is taking a neutral stand. What is your view on this?

[Answer] The Soviet Union is taking a neutral stand. If we have any observation about them we say it to them directly. We do not complain about anything. If Iraq gets into a difficult position it will know how to get out, from the right or the left. It will know the distance allowed from the effective point on the other shore, right or left. The weapons we have are good. The hardware we have is good. Our men are doing everything that is good. We have nothing to complain about.

[Question] There has been a lot of talk that Syria and Libya have effectively joined Iran in its war against Arab Iraq. How true is this, is there any proof of this and what would be the effect of their joining the war?

[Answer] We do not wish in any way to undermine the stand of any Arab or anyone having Arab nationality. However, the fact is that today there is no one in the Arab world who is convinced that Syria and Libya are not assisting Iran. Neither you who are asking, nor any citizen in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria or many citizens in Libya are convinced that these two countries--I mean their official representatives--are not helping Iran.

You may ask me: What is your evidence? I say to you that the major weapon, or one of the major weapons, with which they are facing us now is Soviet. These Soviet-made weapons are from Libya or Syria. You can ask them. If I was doing this--and why should I be doing something that is shameful, if you were to ask me about something that I have done I may not answer you. This is true, or I could answer yes. If you were to put this question to one of the Arab leaders concerned he would say no, I have not done this. But tune in to their radio and try to find a difference between it and the Iranian radio.

[Question] If your brother King Khalid were to ask you at the forthcoming Islamic Summit conference to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi--if they should attend the conference--would you agree to such a meeting?

[Answer] What is a meeting? If it just means kissing and pretending to end differences we do not want it. We are prepared to meet with any Arab, including the Arab who stabs us in the back, if it will serve the Arab nation's interest. However, if the Arab nation's interest is not served by such a meeting then why should we meet? So that we can exchange kisses and lie to each other? We will not do it.

[Question] Let us say in order to turn over a new leaf?

[Answer] No, there is no new leaf. It has become an old one.

[Question from AL-QABAS] Mr President, what is your explanation for the Syrian-Iranian rapprochement? Is it a sectarian or an ideological rapprochement?

[Answer] Neither. It is primarily a coming together of interests. It is a rapprochement that exposes the falsehood of their propaganda. The regime in Iran says that it supports united Muslims. Is there anywhere a greater persecution of Muslims than that in Syria? It is unnatural if they were really Muslims and not Magians in a Muslim guise. We exposed them at an early time and recognized them as Magians in a Muslim guise. The brothers ruling Syria say: We are progressive nationalists. If they were nationalists they should be on our side. If they were leftists they should not be on the Iranians' side. The leftist, is he other than the new concept common nowadays? What is our opinion of someone who thinks like Khomeyni and is a leftist--not in his attitude toward women, or his attitude toward nationalities, religion or sects, or his attitude toward the people.

[Question] If the war should continue longer, do you believe, Mr President, that it will have repercussions for the region and affect the entire Arab Gulf?

[Answer] No one can control the effects of the war. The matter does not depend on me alone, or on Iraq alone, or on the Iraqi regime alone. There is another party, and we cannot say how the Arab party will act. Everything is possible as far as the other party's behavior is concerned. The other party does not have a consistent code of behavior, for its behavior changes.

[Question] Do you expect the Iranian regime to collapse from within?

[Answer] We did not embark on the war so that the Iranian regime will collapse from within. This was not one of the war's objectives but it may be one of the war's results. However, we did not enter the war on this basis. The reasons that compelled us to enter the war are well-known. They include the launching of the war by Iran which went as far as to close the Straits of Hormuz, the Shatt al-'Arab and Iranian airspace, and transferred Iranian transport planes to Pakistan. Hence Bani-Sadr's statement. They are falsifying the facts to their people. In his words to the Cabinet Bani-Sadr referred to the transfer of planes to Pakistan. Bani-Sadr said: "The Iraqi president says that we transferred our planes to Pakistan. [paragraph continues]

Then how did we get the planes with which we fought and which flew inside Iraqi territory?" I did not say that they transferred warplanes. I said that they transferred transport and civilian planes to Pakistan. This is an official admission by them and also by the Pakistanis. We faced the Pakistanis with the facts. They said, if you want to bring your transport planes to us we will also accept them.

All of this happened prior to 22 September 1980. Add to this their usurpation of Iraqi territory. These matters are well-known and documented. You can see all these documents. They are all recorded. Our aims did not include the overthrow of the Iranian regime. The Iranians as a people choose the regime they like, whatever it may be. This is not our task. But it is our duty to protect our sovereignty. It is our duty to try to protect the Arabs' sovereignty. It is our duty to defend the Arabs' security, when necessary. All these factors taken together led to the development of matters toward war on our part. We entered the war on 22 September. Before that the Iranians committed their aggression against our cities. We can explain their motives, but these motives are best known to the Iranians themselves.

[Question] Mr President, in your view is what Khomeyni is doing the result of maladministration, or is he prompted by a foreign state, or are there parties that benefit from this?

[Answer] We have a custom which we try to consolidate, and that is you should not be unfair in your assessment of your enemy. I cannot say that Khomeyni is an agent, but I can say in all good conscience that there are agents among the people who decide the main trend in Iranian policy. As to who he is or who they are, I, as a responsible person cannot say for sure that it is this or that person. The Iranian people will certainly come to know them. Perhaps they already know some of them. Anyone calculating on this basis will realize how the change occurred in Iran. A change occurred and new people came. One of the world's two superpowers is on their borders. Their people includes five nationalities. The regime is new. Logic and reason say that such a regime is really seeking to preserve Iran's interests and truly wants to have an independent and nonaligned experience. The first side it would seek to establish good relations with would be Iraq, because Iraq is part of the Gulf countries, and Iraq and the Gulf are part of the nation. This is logical even when the regime is preoccupied with internal matters and is consolidating itself. They speak about the shah. The shah is gone and has become an old story for the Iranians just as any change in Iraq has become an old story. The Iraqis want the new; the past is not good and has gone. Now you say to us behave well. You said to us, you're hungry; give us bread. You said I'll make your position secondary; make our position on the forefront. [sentence as published] This is the logical question. The shah is finished. The Iranian peoples want the slogans that were raised and were the reason for the shah's overthrow. Let these slogans be applied. It is logical to say that if there were no agents or ignorant people among them then they should establish normal, if not very friendly, relations with the Arab nation so that they can concentrate on their affairs. The first thing they did when they came to power, the first party they began to show their hostility to was the Arab nation. And do not forget, Iraq was in the forefront.

Let us suppose that they appointed themselves as administrators of the Arab nation's affairs. They say that they fight corruption wherever it may be. Reason and logic say that Iraq does not fall into this category. It is not the first country among the Islamic countries in Asia, Africa or elsewhere where corruption exists.

Then why this victimization? They have taken people, Arab regimes--as their allies, regimes that are known to the Arabs and the world for their corruption. Iraq is not the country of the "commission" [last word in English], or the country where the interests of officials are favored, or the country of trading in hashish, or the country that violates society's values, or...and so on and so forth. Then why was Iraq victimized?

Iraq was patient, very patient. They began to carry out provocations against border posts. Our response was localized: If they hit a post, we would hit a post. We did not try to exacerbate the situation. [paragraph continues]

When they saw that we were so patient and for 3 months they shelled the cities. They knew that Iraq will lose its patience. There must be agents in the regime, agents for countries whose interest it is that there should be a conflict between Iran and the Arab nation, between Iraq and Iran. As to who these agents are, I cannot know or say it is this or that. History is bound to answer this question. The Iranian peoples have begun to answer it, for they are daily saying that so and so is an agent and has been removed from the ministry, and so and so is an agent and has been removed from the leadership, and so and so is an agent and we want to refer him to the courts. An agent can kindle a war, but patriots cannot achieve peace when there are agents.

[Question] In our interview with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, he said in answer to a question that during his visit to Iraq and Iran on 27 September 1980 he met with a great deal of intransigence on both sides. Does this also apply to the mediation of Kurt Waldheim's emissary, if one can call it a mediation?

[Answer] I leave this matter to your conscience if President Ziaul Haq said this. If he did say it then he was being unfair. I say unfair because he put us on the same level as Iran in intransigence. He did not say to us, you are wrong. There is something that the Pakistani president said to us: He knows it, and the whole world knows it. He made to us a strange proposal and we accepted it. It was a proposal unprecedented in the history of modern or ancient wars. He proposed to us a unilateral cease-fire. We accepted and Iran rejected the proposal.

How can we be intransigent? As far as our rights are concerned, yes we are unyielding for right is right. If it is meant that we are unyielding in our rights in the sense that we insist on our rights, then yes. We still insist on our rights.

[Question from AL-QABAS] Mr President, the American hostage issue has become a prolonged issue of contention. However, it will eventually be resolved and the United States will supply Iran with arms. As you know the Gulf countries and the Arab countries have strong ties with the United States. Will your attitude to these countries change?

[Answer] Please repeat the last part of the question.

[Question from AL-QABAS] The United States will be supplying Iran with arms. Will the Iraqi Government's attitude toward the Arab countries that have strong ties with the United States change?

[Answer] Then we assume that the Arabs do not accept that any international party supports Iran against any Arab. We are assuming this because it is not far from our thinking and planning. The hostage issue will be resolved. What is the purpose of the taking of the hostages? They took the hostages and asked for the return of the shah. The shah then died and the aim became the return of the money. Then what is being said must be hiding intentions different from what is being said. But the other side is ashamed to say it and does not say it.

In such a case what one is ashamed of saying is not good. They are not saying. Why are they not saying? We are assuming that the United States will rearm Iran directly. Iran received arms and spare parts before and during the war from special markets. Anyone who knows this, and particularly the media, knows very well that the Iranians were receiving spare parts before and during the war--they were receiving spare parts and weapons that could have only been U.S.-made. We assume that this can happen. If it should happen, it does not frighten us, because the quantity of arms Iran now possesses is not little, but great.

[Question] Have some Arab countries in their support for Iran gone as far as to give economic and military support--although as we know you did not ask for this? [question as published]

[Answer] I have answered this question in Amman when it was put to me by a Jordanian brother. If any of you should see a wrong done let him change it with his hand; if he cannot let him change it with his tongue; if he cannot then with his heart, and this is a weaker sign of faith. [quotation of Muhammad] In the conflict the Arabs range from those who take the side of the foreigner against the Arab to the others whose stands vary according to these degrees.

For instance, Jordan said: We are on Iraq's side. And it said it openly. Jordan said: We are on Iraq's side in everything. It said: We offered our Iraqi brothers assistance in everything but they do not need help except in civilian matters. Jordan is our supply line to the sea. It is a main route that is well-known now.

There are other brothers whose hearts are with us. Thus, we are satisfied and not satisfied. We are satisfied as far as the position of the brothers is concerned. They say this is what we can do. We are not satisfied because if we were in their place we would have taken a different stand. We would have drawn our sword and fought alongside the Arab fighting the foreigner. And we have done this. But when fear comes it encompasses everyone. If the aggressor had seen that the Arabs were united he would have thrown away his weapon a long time ago. He would have said long ago, here are your rights, Oh Arabs, but spare me. And we would have said: Here is your territory but be well-behaved with us. And do not be arrogant in your attitude toward the Arabs.

Which of the Arab countries was not directly insulted by this regime on their territory, either through its media, its fifth column that exists, or its representatives who used to travel as they please in the Arab countries and deal with them with a superior attitude? All of you know that if Iraq was not the barrier what would have been the state of other Arab brothers in the face of this real monster--as regard to arms, size of population or other factors.

Today the situation is no longer the same. Before none of you used to say Khomeyni without preceding it by "The Imam Ayatollah Ruholla"--and I do not know why. And you used to repeat it twice or thrice. You used to say, we fear that someone may not like this. Now, "Khomeyni" is acceptable--it is more than enough for him. That is, if one says Khomeyni without accompanying it with an abuse it is considered a blessing. But when did this happen? When he was hit on his head. He was hit by your Iraqi brothers--they woke him up to this age.

This is a truly brotherly stand. Iraq was the victim of aggression and rejected humilitation. It deserves to be congratulated and supported by the Arabs.

[Question] Mr President, does this mean that the Gulf countries, and particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have not carried out their role in the battle with regard to financial support--and the weakest sign of faith is financial support--and you yourself have repeated this several times? But in view of the suspension in the pumping of Iraqi oil and the enormous cost of the war, I think it is not much for them to support you financially.

[Answer] I have already answered this question. I do not wish to embarrass any of the brothers with a detailed answer, whether the answer is in their favor or is a negative mark for any of them.

We want you to live with your heads high, with the foreigner away from you, and we are ready. The affairs of your peoples are up to you; how you dispose of them is up to you. We are only your brothers. This is a principle that we have chosen, declared and fought for. If the foreigner should encroach on your sovereignty or dignity, you'll always find us on your side, except when you say we do not want you. It is important to us that you as brothers are satisfied. But what annoys us is for someone to be on the enemy's side. We cannot say to him thank you, because this is annoying.

[Question] Mr President, there are those who whispered to the Gulf countries that victory may affect Iraq's influence inside these countries--an influence that may go beyond the bounds of cordiality, cordiality between brothers. What is your view?

[Answer] You can answer this question, and the brothers can also answer this question. Iraq was not weak in the past and suddenly became strong. And if we should judge by technical military standards Iraq was not incapable of acting militarily and became overnight what it is now. Therefore, Iraq has principles, and it has declared these principles a long time ago, before Khomeyni came to power. In February it documented these principles and proposed them to the Arabs. Among these principles are found in the pan-Arab charter which has been published. You can refer to it.

Iraq is not the country that uses force against a brother. Iraq uses force on the side of a brother. There have been many quarters--including Western circles--that made such murmurings. They said to the Gulf countries if Iraq today can control Iran tomorrow it will control you. But such are not Iraq's principles. It was not weak and then now became strong. Iraq declared these principles before Khomeyni came to power. It had the opportunity to use the army and did not do so. I have said before that when the Syrian Army entered Lebanon many people--some of whom are among the Lebanese nationalist and Palestinian forces--blamed us and urged us to go into Syria to prevent the Syrian army from entering Lebanon, and we refused. We do not want a black mark in our history. In 1970 our Palestinian brothers blamed us for not clashing with the Jordanian Army. There were attempts to make us do so and we refused. We said that the Iraqi Army did not come to Jordan and fight the Jordanian Army but to fight alongside the Jordanian Army against Israel.

In the As-Samitah [on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border] incident, whose details you know, a brother came to me and I said to him: We'll pitch your tent with our own hands. We'll pitch an Iraqi tent in the place of the tent where the problem occurred. Go to Al-Basrah and you'll find the tent pitched by Iraqis for their Kuwaiti brothers so that they come and stay in it. We pitched it with our own hands for our Kuwaiti brothers and they came and stayed in it.

There is nothing in our record that points to such a possibility; but you know the threat to you which came from Iran. The threat existed inside your society and on your borders, in addition to daily behavior against you. I do not think--when we are talking like brothers in this spirit--that you disagree with me on the example I gave about the way you write Khomeyni's name and the choice of acceptable titles. Therefore, this is persecution in your own country, persecution in every sense of the word. What if this state of affairs was possible in another form--it would have been certain that Iran would have colonized the Gulf.

[Question from AL-QABAS] Mr President, there used to be a border question between Iraq and Jordan and it was resolved by telephone very simply with no complications, maps or field visits. The Iraqi-Saudi border issue was also solved--and it used to be a complicated issue in the past. There only remains the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border issue. The Iraqi interior minister will be visiting Kuwait soon. Will this be the final visit for the demarcation of the borders?

[Answer] Whether it is the final or the penultimate visit is not important. What is important is that the same spirit exists as that with which we dealt with the brothers in Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The same spirit exists to resolve the border problem between the two countries. The cases differ: The Saudi case is not the same as the Jordanian case, and the Jordanian case is not the same as the Kuwaiti. The spirit, however, is the same: It is that we want you to live in your country with dignity and to be Arabs. As for other matters they are all changeable. This is republican, that is royal, this is a sheikhdom, that is socialist or capitalist. These are variables. What is important to us that the homeland does not change, and the Arabism of the people living in this homeland does not change.

[Question] There are those in the Gulf countries who murmured that the Iraqi treasury is empty, and that Iraq has turned to the Gulf and oil countries for help. But I want to ascertain this from you, Mr President.

[Answer] First, if Iraq is in need it is not shameful for it to ask for help from its brothers; and it is not shameful for its brothers to ask for help from it when necessary. As far as the Iraqi economy, budget and resources are concerned, the figures speak for themselves. [paragraph continues]

We have announced our budget which includes our foreign trade plan and the funds allocated for it. Our 1981 general and trade budgets exceed those for 1980. Therefore, when we draw up a higher budget this means that our resources allow it. Thank God, our resources are good.

[Question] Mr President, the U.S. president-elect recently declared that the United States will intervene in the Gulf at any time it sees fit. Do you believe that the Iraqi-Iranian war can be a factor that will influence the U.S. President and cause him to intervene in the Gulf?

[Answer] There are two main causes that made the war break out through an Iranian decision, whether with the Iranians' knowledge or whether the Iranians were driven without their knowledge: The rearrangement of the situation in Iran in accordance with the ambitions of certain countries, including the United States; and the rearrangement of the situation in the Gulf [according to the ambitions of] certain countries, foremost among which is the United States. We believe that the reason for the intransigence of certain quarters in Iran--although they know the high, and unjustifiable, price Iran is paying for prolonging the war--is in order to arrange matters in Iran and in the Gulf in favor of other non-Iranian parties including the United States.

[Question] Mr President, every war yields far-reaching political and economic changes. What changes will occur in the Iraqi political structure as a result of the current war, particularly as we have sensed a cohesion between the leadership and the people?

[Answer] The leadership will deal with the people with greater loyalty to the principles whose essence is to serve the people, not to be above the people but to be in their forefront. As for the factors you referred to, they are positive. This is contrary to the illusion in the mind of some Iranians. Regrettably, Arab regimes were responsible for imbuding the Iranians' minds with this illusion. They used to say to the Iranians: If you would only embark on a partial war with Iraq you'll see how the regime will fall. They depicted the situation as though there is only Saddam Husayn in Iraq and no one else is with him--perhaps five or six people in the leadership. As I said in the beginning, the war showed that this is a fatal illusion. The people's enthusiasm and cohesion is greater; their strength has grown. Other wars by Arab countries put the Iranians under the illusion that the [Iraqi] regime will fall. This war is different. In other Arab countries, when war used to break out between them and a foreigner they used to increase the guards around the palaces. Here, when the war broke out the palace guards went to fight on the front. We do not need to increase security around us because simple personal security suffices. As for the army's main force, we said it should all be on the front and enjoy the honor. Not one unit should remain far from the front.

Moreover, our circumstances are different from the accepted logic that says: "He spares the ruler's entourage and relatives and sends [to the front] the sons of the ordinary people." In this war seven of my uncles have been martyred so far. Another uncle had both legs amputated. When the people see that the war is being fought in this way--in order to defend their dignity, sovereignty and security--they wage it in the way you have now seen. Thank God.

[Question] Mr President, there is talk about coordination among the Gulf countries which--I believe and according to political parley--may go as far as the formation of a bloc. Does Iraq have any objections to this kind of coordination?

[Answer] We bless all coordination among the Arabs--be it bilateral or multilateral--whose purpose is to provide increased and better service for the Arab nation. However, any coordination should take the following into consideration: That it should not be formulated in a manner that allows it to be used by the foreigner or driven by him in a direction that drives a wedge among the Arabs. The foreigner's basic concern--and the foreigner has many colors and forms and names--is to turn the Arabs into axes and groupings instead of being one united bloc.

Thus when our brothers among the confrontation states repeatedly tried to persuade Iraq to join them we said no. We try to make all the Arabs be at a level where they all together serve the Arab nation, even if such a level is less than what others envisage. The others who believe that they can serve the Arab nation above this level are free to do so. But we must not disperse the Arab nation into axes and blocs that weaken it and enable the foreigner to set these axes and blocs against each other.

[Question] Mr President, six Arab states were absent from the recent Amman Arab summit conference. What was strange is that the PLO and Algeria did not attend. As for Syria and Libya, their stands were open; they made their disagreement known. Does this signify that there is a split between Iraq and both Algeria and the PLO?

[Answer] There is nothing between Iraq and Algeria that merits being called a split. There is no issue on which we differ. There is nothing that we hold against them. The same applies to the PLO. Their absence is their business. Perhaps the PLO has special circumstances. We would have preferred them to have attended because this would have been better. There is no convincing justification for the brothers not to attend a conference in which any of them can voice any view. We hope that this situation will not last. Reports indicate that many of the Arab brothers who did not attend support the Amman summit resolutions.

[Question] With regard to the Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held late this month, do you expect it to succeed in bringing about a settlement between Iraq and Iran? Do you intend to attend the conference personally? What is the scope for future Arab-Islamic cooperation in the face of existing challenges?

[Answer] If circumstances allow us to attend the conference personally, we shall do so. In any case, God willing, Iraq will attend. We did not suggest to anyone to bring about a settlement between us and Iran. As for the Islamic Conference Organization, it had already made an attempt to bring about a settlement between us and Iran. As you know, both President Ziaul Haq and Habib Chatti came to Baghdad.

If the Islamic Conference should try to resolve the differences between us and Iran, we shall not reject this. We shall clearly state our view on this matter. We cannot speculate because we are not the party that decides. For any decision to be effective, the other party--which is Iran--will have to agree to it. There is also the case that if Iran proposes an idea which is not acceptable to Iraq, then there is no agreement.

[Question] Mr President, Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi proclaimed a union with Chad. Does Iraq intend to unite with India?

[Answer] You want to say it but you are afraid of Al-Qadhdhafi, and you want to put the idea into my head. We are the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. If there is an opportunity for us to unite with an Arab brother we seek such an opportunity, and we accept a similar initiative from another Arab country. As for our relations with foreigners, it is our policy to improve these relations, but it is not part of our policy to unite with them.

[Question from AL-QABAS] During the past 5 months the Iraqi information apparatus has turned a new leaf to which the Arab citizen is unaccustomed--truth in broadcasting military communiques. Will this new leaf continue in the future with regard to all the government's achievements and mistakes?

[Answer] Accuracy in military communiques was only new in the war, but it was not new with regard to the government's established policy. Whenever we made a mistake we always said so to the people and held open discussions with government officials on the air, on radio and television. We criticized ourselves and the government machine. This topic was in fact discussed by the General Command. Some of the military said: It is not customary for one to declare his losses in men and materiel. I replied: True, but you must not forget the psychological state of the Iraqi or the Arab. He was used to hearing the facts from foreign radios in past wars. We must accustom him to hearing the facts from us, in war as well as in peace.

[Question] The European countries in general ask, why did Iraq accede to the 1975 agreement with the shah of Iran, and under what pressure did it do so at the time? Why did Iraq abrogate the agreement at this particular time?

[Answer] I've answered this question on more than one occasion and in more than one speech. Special circumstances existed in 1975 when the Algiers agreement was concluded. These circumstances involved: A military situation by which Iran obtained illegal rights in the Shatt al-'Arab and which Iran created in the face of Iraq through two issues, by massing its army and border skirmishes; and by giving support to suspect Kurdish elements in northern Iraq in fighting that lasted 12 months during which the army alone sustained 16 [as published] casualties and the masses of the people on both sides sustained 60,000 casualties. Only three heavy bombs were left in the air force, and several hundred heavy artillery shells remained. These were the circumstances of the 1975 agreement. Nevertheless we were not the first to abrogate the agreement, but the first to abrogate it in word and in deed were the Iranians. They abrogated it in their statements when in the first week they came to power they called it the "buried" agreement. They called it the "suspect" agreement.

These were the circumstances. At such a time when the alternative is part of northern Iraq we accept [to cede] part of Shatt al-'Arab. However, when developments occur, the agreement is rejected by the other side, Iraq enters a state of war and is inside Iranian territory, and the Iranians continue to have illegal rights in Shatt al-'Arab, then this is not appropriate.

If you should have a lost right and you are able to regain it at any time then you should do so.

[Question] With regard to the general situation in the Gulf, one observes that ideas have totally changed in the wake of the Iranian-Iraqi war. Arab attitudes toward the Iranians and the Iraqi situation in general have also changed. Do you believe that Gulf security now needs to be safeguarded in the form of an alliance?

[Answer] An alliance among whom?

[Question] Between the Gulf states and Iraq?

[Answer] An alliance is true brotherhood. An alliance exists among members of the same family. In practice, if we are unable to implement any of the alliance's provisions at all times, then we'll be unable to implement any of them.

On our side, in my view whenever any foreigner "comes to you" you'll find us fighting. We'll fight in the forefront. We'll fight with you in the worst circumstances. This is a pledge that forms part of our principles; it is a situation to which our people agree. You saw that when the Iranians threatened Bahrain. A few months before the war, the defense minister went to Bahrain. Why? So that the Iranians would understand--without knowing what went on--that by sending the defense minister we want to say to them, in addition to declared official statements: Listen, we'll not allow you to commit aggression against an Arab while we are here. If you want to reach that Arab first you'll have to come to us. And this is what they did.

[Question] Mr President, before the war you visited Saudi Arabia. There were those who interpreted this visit as a kind of Iraqi declaration to Saudi Arabia that Iraq intended to enter a war with Iran. Is this true, or was the decision to go to war a purely Iraqi decision that none of the Arab countries knew about?

[Answer] The decision to start the war as an Iranian decision. The decision to go to war was not our decision. Iran declared the war. You as Arabs should not lose sight of this fact. There is evidence for this which the foreign media are trying to obfuscate in view of the fact that a long time has elapsed since it began. [paragraph continues]

They stick to 22 September, when the Iraqi counteroffensive began on a large scale. However, they forget all the acts of war committed by Iran: The shelling of cities and installations, and the closing of the Strait of Hormuz and the Shatt al-'Arab. If the decision to start the war was an Iraqi decision such questions could be raised. Since it was an Iranian decision this situation does not apply to the visit to Saudi Arabia.

This is one point. Another point is that you know the purpose of the visit: The purpose was announced. The visit took place in light of the Zionist entity's decision to make Jerusalem its capital. We went to see our brothers in Saudi Arabia and discussed adopting a stand on this decision. Indeed, when our stand was announced the Zionist decision failed, and even the people who already had embassies in Jerusalem transferred them.

[Question] To go back to the American hostages issue, there are those who believe that the United States may embark on military action inside Iran, or against Iran. What position will the Arabs take if this should happen?

[Answer] Whether or not this happens it is a matter that concerns the United States. We have firm rights and specific aims that we have declared. There will be no change in the current policy unless these aims are achieved and these rights are regained.

[Question] It was rumored at the beginning of the war that economic installations were being sabotaged from within Iraq. How true are these rumors?

[Answer] There was no such sabotage inside Iraq.

[Question] Mr President, regarding the Palestinian question and the tragedy in southern Lebanon, the coming of a new administration in the United States and Iraq's categorical rejection of Security Council Resolution 242 and Resolutions that preceded it--on the basis that Iraq advocates the establishment of a Palestinian state on the entire Palestinian territory--what did Iraq do to bring this plan to success, and what are Iraq's views?

[Answer] What plan?

[Question] Returning the entire Palestinian territory to the Palestinian people. You are not on the frontline with the Zionist enemy. Your only way is through Jordan or Syria. What do you think is a realistic solution to the tragedy of southern Lebanon?

[Answer] With regard to a solution to Lebanese issues in general and all their ramifications, we have already answered this. A booklet addressing this issue was issued some time ago. Perhaps at the time many people did not like what we said. The gist of it is that we believe this issue should be tackled primarily by the Lebanese themselves and that the Arabs should not interfere in Lebanese affairs. At any rate they should not prevent a solution. The way to achieve a solution is for the Arabs to create a favorable climate that will enable the Lebanese to find a way that preserves Lebanon united and Arab regardless of the administrative or constitutional particularities chosen by Lebanon.

As for the second part of your question, I want you to understand our position. We do not reject any step that wrests any part, however small, of one's rights by political or other means, but we reject any step that regains part of these rights as a substitute for the remaining rights. We do not reject political means at all.

[Question] Then what is Iraq's view regarding the stand of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his statement that he is fully prepared to recognize Israel if Israel recognizes the PLO?

[Answer] Regardless of the details, we have explained our stand. When we have the opportunity to participate in any role we shall be in the forefront of the participants. We have proved this. [paragraph continues]

The Iraqi Army participated in the 1948 and 1967 wars and participated significantly in the 1973 war on both the Egyptian and Syrian fronts. Iraq is prepared to particpate at any time the Arabs concerned or the other Arabs see fit to resort to other options to obtain their rights.

[Question from AL-QABAS] Iraqi-Jordanian relations are passing through a phase that can be called a "honeymoon." You have now been in power for 13 years, while King Husayn has been in much longer. The situation in Jordan has not changed in all that time, nor have your policies. Therefore, how do you explain the cool relations that have existed between you and Jordan during that period and this current rapprochment or cohesion?

[Answer] These relations between us and Jordan began in 1974. They grew and developed until they reached their present level. If there were periods of coolness between us in the past they were not due to Iraqi interests but to complications brought about by the circumstances that existed in 1970 in the relations between the Palestinian resistance and Jordan. We do not have any ambitions in Jordan, nor does Jordan have any ambitions in Iraq. Relations are brotherly, and their main objective is to serve the Arab nations.

[Question from AL-QABAS] But there were periods when media campaigns reached the limit...

[Answer--the president interrupting] Yes, yes. There were such periods, and as I have said they were due to complications in the relations between the Palestinians and Jordan in 1970.

[Question] Is there an alternative to what Iraqi-Syrian relations should be other than unity or cohesion? Do you expect the present good Iraqi-Jordanian relations to proceed toward the aspired unity in any of its forms?

[Answer] No. We did not propose a union to the Jordanians, and the Jordanians did not propose a union to us. If favorable circumstances should arise for proposing such a union to the Jordanians then this would not be strange. In the same way, if favorable circumstances should exist for them to propose forming a unionist relationship then this also would not be strange. In any case, if such a situation should arise and the circumstances were favorable and it was proposed by either of the two sides, then it would not be strange and it would be discussed at the time.

[Question] What about the first part of the question?

[Answer] Let us leave this part. I will not answer you.

[Question] Mr President, what are your personal worries at present? Are you able to direct the battle for development at the same time you are directing the military battle?

[Answer] If it had been Saddam Husayn alone who was ruling I would not have been able to mass one division against Iran, and we would not have been enjoying the high morale we are enjoying now. I tell you that, thank God, I have no personal worries. I have no trade to lose or crops for insects or lack of water for irrigation to damage. My personal worries have become part of the people's worries; my happiness is part of the people's happiness; my future is part of their future. I have nothing personal. I say this in all honesty. I have no personal worries regarding clothing, food or shelter. Thank God, everything has been provided for me by the state of Iraq.

As for my worries as an official, there is no official who does not have worries. However, I do not have a nightmare of worries. They are legitimate worries: How can we improve? How can we develop our administration? How can the Ba'thists' relationship with the people improve? How can we maintain the spirit of victory in each Iraqi's heart and mind? How can we achieve our rights? [paragraph continues]

How can the Arab nation be in a better position and how can we contribute toward bringing about such a better position? How and when will the Arabs be able to bring about a situation that makes others respect their rights, security and choice? My worries lie within such a framework and no more.

[Question from AL-QABAS] A personal question. Recently, we have heard frequent efforts by Iraqi media to glorify President Saddam. [the president laughs) Are you happy with this glorification, or is the Iraqi citizen glorifying the symbol it was looking for?

[Answer] I am happy and not happy. I believe that showing satisfaction with any good action is necessary and legitimate. God Almighty who created us said: If you are grateful I will give you more. [Koranic verse] If we said we do not want any satisfaction shown we would not be precise or realistic. I am discussing some manifestations of the media with my colleagues. I have been discussing this issue since before the war and before I assumed my present office--when I was the second man--both regarding appelations and prose. One such case is a series of articles by Comrade Sabag Salman Juwaydi [director general of the presidency's press and information department]. I read one page of them today. Referring to the title of the article, I told him that we do not need such a title. I commented on the title without having seen all of the articles. I said to him, it is up to you as an Iraqi Ba'thist to act on such a matter. He sent me the articles and said he can act and take responsibility for this matter. This is one of his rights. A negative case can arise as a result of exaggerated glorification or an exaggerated role and so on and so forth.

My comrades have discussed this matter with me more than once and have expressed their views. In any case, I have nothing to do with these appellations. For instance, I did not say call me "the leader president." On the contrary, I told them, "it is sufficient to call me Saddam Husayn." Saddam Husayn is known, if he is good he is known, and if he is not good he is also known. Any formula the people like and choose freely is a healthy and legitimate formula.

[Question] Mr President, some time ago you proposed to end the war if Iran acceded to the rights of Iraq...

[Answer--the president interrupting] And the Arab nation.

[Question] Do you consider the three islands occupied by Iran to be Arab?

[Answer] Yes, we have referred to them as an Arab right.

[Question] And a necessary condition for ending the war?

[Answer] Yes, a necessary condition for ending the war.

[Question] Even if Iran should agree only to Iraq's rights?

[Answer] It is not enough. It must return the three islands.

[Question] Even if the war should continue for a long time?

[Answer] What can we do other than fight? Are you tired of the war?

[Question] Mr President, is it part of the Iraqi Arab rights to keep Arabistan Arab, or is this up to the Arabs of Iran?

[Answer] For Iraq, this was not the reason for the outbreak of the war, and it has not been one of our conditions for ending the war. As for our aspirations, yes we do hope the Arab people in Arabistan will have autonomy. We hope all the Iranian peoples--and not only the Arabs in Iran--will have any formula they choose within Iran. We have applied autonomy here. The Iraqi people comprises two nationalities: Arabs and Kurds. Therefore, we decided on autonomy for Iraqi Kurds. It is not strange that we should be sympathetic toward with the policy of autonomy for any minority anywhere.

[Question] Mr President, before the war Iraq undoubtedly had its view on its relations with the Gulf countries. Have these views changed during the war?

[Answer] Have you seen any change? Are we not pursuing the same policy we have been pursuing for years: The same policy, spirit, contacts and relations. There is one thing that is new. Now we are afraid to send a representative, and the brothers say the Iraqis have gone too far. That is, they would embarass us by saying that we send more representatives than necessary. Only in this regard has the situation changed.

[Question] We have taken a lot of your time.

[Answer] You do not want me to ask questions?

[Question] On the contrary, we want you to ask and also to have a discussion that is not for publication.

[Answer] No, no. Let me ask you. How are the Arab people in the Gulf now?

[Question] Truly, the morale is high. What you said about our attitude toward the Iranian side has undoubtedly changed; this is true.

[Question] Are the Iranian reports on your losses correct? What is the truth about the figures that have been mentioned?

[Answer] In 5 days [during the recent Iranian counteroffensive] they lost 388 tanks. This is the figure I recall. This figure refers to the Iranian tanks that have been destroyed before our very eyes and with our own hands. As for what has been destroyed far from the battlefields, this is known to them. Their offensive was on a 20-km front in a front that is 1,000 km long. They chose a small front and concentrated their best forces in order to penetrate the front that is within their territory. They went forward until they fell within our forces' pincerlike formation. The Iraqi counteroffensive began on the 2d day. All their armor was crushed. They left serviceble equipment in the battlefield and fled. In this battle all weapons and all the men's determination were used. They were crushed in the 5th month--and we know that they prepared for this offensive for 2 months with troops, hardware, resources and equipment that reached them from here and there. We have the right to take pride in the results of the war that we did not choose. Now that it has broken out it is the right of all of us to be proud of its results.

[Question] Mr President, does [former] President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr bless this war? Is he taking part in its planning, or is he--may God grant him good health--indisposed and completely removed from political and military worries?

[Answer] Yes, he blesses this war. As for taking part in planning and running the war, this is not his business--that is if the father, President al-Bakr, had been able to continue in office it would have been everyone's wish for him to do so. However, in view of the fact that his health does not allow him to be the first man, he no longer has any specific responsibilities in the leadership. The leadership is leadership. He is our father and elder brother. He blesses us and hopes for further victories. This is natural.

[Question] How satisfied are you with the Kuwaiti press?

[Answer] In general, the Kuwaiti press has been more positive than other Arab papers before and during the war. However, we hope you will be even more positive. You excel over the Gulf press and much of the Arab press. Certainly if you believed that what you write is not being read or does not satisfy the people who are supposed to read it you would not have written. Surely you receive encouragement from the people, but you also display the initiative. It is possible that your initiatives may be cancelled but it is not possible to cancel the connection between your initiative and the masses. This is because there are masses in other parts who may have the same sentiments as our people in Kuwait, but their media or press do not write as well as what is being written in Kuwait. Hence your initiative.

[Question] Mr President, we hope to continue our meeting with you in the future.

[Answer] God willing, God bless you. We will view this war only within the framework you have imagined. It is your war.

You are welcome. Our greetings to our brothers in Kuwait, in the Gulf and to every Arab.

HUSAYN REITERATES CONDITIONS FOR WITHDRAWAL

JN212056 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has stressed that Iraqi forces can enter any Iranian city or territory and destroy it if they choose to do so. However, he said, the hope that the Iranians will return to reason prevents us from doing so.

Upon receiving a number of officers and soldiers today who refused to take their vacations during the war, the president said: When Iraq recalls the evils of the Iranians, it feels that they deserve more destruction, however, considerations pertaining to the above-mentioned hope prevent us from doing so.

He added that the Iranians have fought Iraq and taken it as a foe without any justification. They were ambitious to occupy Baghdad, Maysan and Basra, but Iraq fought out of faith in its just cause. He stressed that Iraq has achieved military victory and that the Iranian Army has been defeated in the battle. He added that Iraq will not let anyone rob it of the spirit of victory.

The president said that the Iraqi Army will not return to its position of before the war if Iran does not respond to its demands and rights. He added that the Iraqi bloodshed in the war would not be without a price. He said: Iraq will not return to the previous borders and then fight the Iranians on its own land for the recovery of its rights. He added that the world must understand that a new situation has been given birth in Iraq: It is the human being. The Iraqi individual will preserve his rights, humanity, land and honor. In the same manner, he does not want to rob any side of its rights and humanity.

President Saddam Husayn said that the Iranians have left their weapons, tanks and guns intact and fled the battlefield because they do not believe in a just cause and are not in the right. The Iranian officials fabricated matters with Iraq and aimed at attacking Iraq, he said. He added that the Iranian authorities should not have gotten into a conflict with Iraq, but should have directed their attention to building their new regime. However, he said, they chose the path of dispute with Iraq without justification.

He stressed that Iraq did not wish to humiliate Iran, but God has humiliated them because they were not in the right. Therefore, he said, they had to bear the consequences of all their acts.

The president concluded his address by stressing that no one had reckoned with Iraq's real power because the computer does not show how the Iraqi individual has interacted with the new life in Iraq.

He said that a computer gives statistics about armament, army, inhabitants and land, but it does not reckon with the Iraqi people's mentality and their faith and adherence to their march, as well as their readiness to be martyred. Some of the computers' owners have embellished the war for the Iranians and crammed into the minds of the agents among them the results of the war as shown by the computer.

MILITARY COMMAND ISSUES BATTLE COMMUNIQUE 223

JN211713 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Communique No 223 issued by the Armed Forces General Command 21 January 1981]

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)--In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

With bravery and strength our valiant armed forces continued to strike the enemy and inflict heavy losses on him in both equipment and lives in the various operations sectors.

Following are the results of our forces' activities yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our units in the Iranian (Nowsud) region, which is opposite the Halabjah region, raided the Iranian Sheykhan Camp and clashed with enemy troops inside the camp in a fierce battle, forcing the enemy to retreat after having sustained 121 killed. Our valiant units also destroyed two tanks in the camp, in addition to a number of guns, mortars, vehicles and ammunition stockpiles, before they returned safely to base.

B. Our units engaged the enemy troops in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, killing 14 and destroying 1 observation post.

C. Seven enemy troops were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.

D. One vehicle was destroyed in the Sumar region.

E. One observation post was destroyed in the Mehran region.

F. Four were killed and one gun was destroyed in the Dezful region.

G. One vehicle and one gun were destroyed in the Shush region.

H. Three vehicles, two of which were carrying enemy troops, were destroyed and burned in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.

I. Our units opened fire on enemy personnel and positions in the Abadan region, inflicting the following losses: Two were killed and one tank, one vehicle and three ammunition stockpiles were destroyed. An oil reservoir was destroyed and set ablaze.

Accordingly, known enemy losses total: 148 killed and 3 tanks; 6 vehicles, 2 of which were carrying enemy troops; 2 guns; 2 observation posts; 3 ammunition stockpiles; 1 oil reservoir destroyed. In addition, a number of guns, mortars, vehicles and ammunition stockpiles were destroyed in the Iranian Sheykhan Camp.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 16 martyrs in all sectors.

B. In equipment: One tank and one gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 January 1981

PERSIAN-LANGUAGE COMMENTARY ON HOSTAGE ISSUE

NC211330 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear Listeners and (?protesting) people of Iran: Oh Muslim Iranian brothers and sisters: Finally, after 15 months, the hostages issue has ended. But at what price and in return for what?

The dictator finally gave in to Ronald Reagan's threats and surrendered. How can one define this surrender and that after thousands of people gathered each day in front of the American Embassy or, as they themselves put it, the American spy nest? How did the hypocrites of the Tehran dictatorship allow themselves to commit such a great fraud and end it in such a deceitful way? Had they not said that they [the hostages] are hostages of the Iranian nation? Then whose permission did they get [to release them]? When did they get permission from the people of Iran and why did they release these filthy spies? How, why, and in return for what were those who committed treason against Iran and the Iranians and who were serving America as diplomats in Iran released?

Oh noble Iranian people: How can you allow a bunch of plunderers to play so recklessly with your feelings, with your lives, with your country, to ignore you--the millions of Iranians--and your demands and to free traitors? How can you allow them to do this? When will you yourselves decide and act? When? When will you ask: Did you release them because they were not spies? Then why did you disgrace yourselves and a nation [by taking them hostage]? When?

Do you allow a group to come and take another group hostage, to perplex millions for more than a year, to attract the confirmation of the public, to organize parades, to deliver speech after speech, sermon after sermon and to write article after article on spies and spying and then--without the least attention to those millions, without apoligizing and without giving you the smallest explanation--to free the hostages and to let them go?

Yes, noble Iranian people, not only we but the entire world are asking: How come these 52 were taken hostage and are now being released? And in return for what? This is the question asked by the world and not by us only--perhaps it will be the question asked by each and every one of you.

You know that America did not accept Iran's conditions, and you know how the matter ended. (?Iran) was the one who surrendered, Khomeyni and his clique, by returning the hostages and by showing his impotence, disgraced Iran and the Iranians. Why? Do you know why? The matter should have ended where it did. On the excuse that they do not have money to buy arms and therefore they should retrieve Iran's frozen assets in American banks to buy arms. They released the hostages so that for a few more days they will be able to hide their signal defeats in the war with Iraq in the hullabaloo of an issue which was empty and useless from its very start to its very end, and so they they can veil the retreat of their troops and continue their criminal regime for a few more days. But noble people of Iran, you with your lofty aspirations: We want to be in peace with you as you want to be in peace with us. We too do not like war, as you do not like war. Khomeyni has imposed the war on Iraq, as he has imposed it on you. In continuing his oppression, Khomeyni does not consider anything or anyone. He frees the Americans in order to veil the defeat of his forces with the commotion of this release and so that he can, by purchasing arms, fill the pockets of the American banks with the same frozen assets, thus having the means for continuing this disgusting war and his more disgusting regime.

FOREIGN MINISTER AL-QASIM RETURNS TO AMMAN

JN220816 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim returned to Amman last night after representing Jordan at the Islamic foreign ministers conference that opened in Saudi Arabia on 17 January.

Al-Qasim told PETRA NEWS AGENCY that the conference approved the issues agreed upon at the Jerusalem Committee meetings last month on formulation of an Islamic working strategy to confront the Zionist enemu.

Al-Qasim said that the conference was supposed to discuss the Iraqi-Iranian conflict yesterday, but discussion of the subject postponed due to Iran's absence from the foreign ministers conference.

Al-Qasim added that it must be emphasized that the principles which will decide the solution to the conflict will be built on recognition of the legitimate national rights of fraternal Iraq. Iraq has asserted on more than one occasion that it has no territorial ambitions in Iran and that all it hopes for is that relations with Iran remain built on correct principles of respect for the mutual rights of both countries. He said that the conference condemned the foreign invasion of Afghanistan and asserted the necessity of the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from its lands and the Afghan people's right to self-determination.

AL-QASIM: TALKS WITH KHADDAM 'MERELY FRIENDLY'

JN220912 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Jan 81 pp 1,13

[Text] At-Ta'if--Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim has denied reports published by the newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam during the dinner banquet hosted by Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in honor of the Islamic foreign ministers had touched on the outcome of the Arab Fraternal Good Offices Committee's visit to Amman.

Al-Qasim told AL-AKHBAR's correspondent that his talks with Khaddam were merely friendly.

JORDAN RECEIVES SOVIET, U.S.-MADE TANKS FROM IRAQ

LD190931 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17-23 Jan 81 p 10

[Text] According to diplomatic information, Jordan recently received as a gift from Iraq 200 Soviet tanks in addition to the American tanks which the Iraqis have captured from Iran and given to the Jordanian Army.

In Amman, well-informed sources have stated that high-level contacts have taken place between Jordan and the Soviet Union in the past few days to discuss the possibility of renewing the invitation to King Husayn to visit Moscow--the visit which was postponed following the eruption of the Iraqi-Iranian war. Amman official sources deny knowledge of this, but diplomatic circles expect an early date to be fixed for the Moscow visit.

Meanwhile, an Arab personality has conveyed to Palestinian officials a statement heard from King Husayn that "the talk about a Jordanian option in the propounded peaceful proposals is not true and Jordan still considers the PLO the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

COMMENTARY VIEWS REAGAN'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

NC211014 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In his inaugural speech, Reagan said that he wants his country to be strong and flourishing and live in peace with itself and with the world.

Peace requires two things: Unshakable faith in it and a power that protects it and imposes respect for it and observance by those who aggress against it. Thus the world--that believes in freedom and peace--is nominating the U.S. President to act on its wide screen--he, the successful actor--the main role in a film that will last 4 years. It is with this hope that the Lebanese people, who believe in peace and freedom, receive the President of the friendly United States, President Reagan, at a time when the small homeland of Lebanon is being exposed to the biggest barbaric onslaught at the hands of aliens. These aliens have forced occupation on it, and are assiduously trying to change its humane and civilized face by displacing and killing its sons, thereby imposing both alien identity on it and ideologies that are contradictory to its humane and civilized values, history and its adherance to the heavenly laws which is similar to its adherance to freedom and peace. We remind President Reagan of the tear shed by his daughter Patricia as she was leaving the small house where she was brought up, for the big and mighty house, the biggest and most powerful house in the world where happiness, honor and a future are waiting for her.

We are bringing up this sad picture which contrasts with the happy picture of the first day when President Reagan and his family enter the White House, to tell him and the friendly American people that the tidings of his inauguration concide with the fifth anniversary of the displacement from Ad-Damur, the start of the Lebanese tragedy and the heroic decision taken by the Lebanese resistance in Lebanon and free Lebanon to defend homes and to die on the soil of the forefathers in preservation of history, values, civilization, freedom and peace on a sacred land which was, and will continue to be, a temple of God. We are confident that this picture which we are putting before the believing president, the president of the most civilized and humane nation, will be worthy of his primary concerns because it deserves it and because the upholding of right is a victory for those who are helping to establish it before God, the world and history.

PRIME MINISTER AL-WAZZAN MEETS WITH 'ARAFAT

NC210718 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] At about 2000 yesterday Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met in his house with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat who was accompanied by Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and Abu al-Walid [Col Sa'd Sayil]. After the meeting Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: The present circumstances demand that we coordinate and strengthen relations with all those concerned, those who are present on our territory and those who are interested in the issues which concern us these days.

He added: There is no doubt that the Palestinian brothers are interested in what is happening here and in the area. It is our duty to support the Palestinian issue, to which we have committed ourselves, and to work, through coordination among ourselves, for the benefit of our Lebanese issue and the Palestinian issue, which is today passing through its most delicate stages. Regarding the possibility of holding a summit meeting between President Sarkis and Yasir 'Arafat, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: The remaining few days before the departure [to Saudi Arabia for the Islamic summit conference] may not provide a chance for such a meeting. However, the presence of all of us at the same conference may provide the chance for all sorts of meetings, bilateral or others.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BULGARIA'S ZHIVKOV

JN211833 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Todor Bozhinov, first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, at 1215 GMT today. Bozhinov conveyed a message from Bulgarian Chairman Todor Zhivkov and his regards and best wishes. Chairman Zhivkov's message reiterated Bulgaria's full solidarity with the Arab's just cause and its complete support for Syria's struggle under President Hafiz al-Asad.

Talks during the meeting dealt with means to further bolster the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the People's Republic of Bulgaria and to further promote the economic cooperation between them by employing new means to bring about the objectives of his cooperation. Talks also dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the hostile schemes aimed at the Arab nation and the situation resulting from the Iraqi-Iranian war.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM RETURNS TO DAMASCUS

JN220759 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Damascus from At-Ta'if last night after participating in the Islamic foreign ministers conference, which convened on 18 January.

TISHRIN COMMENTS ON CARTER, REAGAN'S OPTIONS

JN210935 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Damascus, 21 Jan (SANA)--TISHRIN today comments on the transfer of power from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan. The paper says: While bidding farewell to the Carter era--which began with President Carter's talk about a balanced policy in the Middle East, a review of the biased U.S. policy toward Israel and a national homeland for the Palestinians--the Arabs still remember how the forces holding the reigns of power in the United States forced Carter and his aides to retract themselves and deny all the positive statements and even the allusions they made.

The paper adds: The Arabs remember too that the United States, during Carter's era, provided Israel with assistance that exceeded by far all that had been offered by all the former U.S. administrations, that the United States stood beside aggression and the Israeli occupation and that it refused to help the United Nations in implementing the two principles which reject the forcible annexation of land by others and grant the right of self-determination in the Middle East. They also remember that it was during Carter's era that the United States returned to the Middle East the policy of the gunboat, the big stick and military bases and that it played a major role in dividing Arab ranks and establishing a strategic imbalance between Israel and the Arabs. The paper stresses that during Carter's era, Arab-U.S. relations entered the worst stage ever witnessed by U.S.-Arab relations since World War II.

After pointing out that the Arabs [sentence indistinct] the paper says that Carter's legacy to Reagan [sentence indistinct] is no less burdened than that which Carter inherited from President Ford.

The Arabs, who have noted with great concern pre- and post-election statements by Reagan and his aides--statements which augur no good for the Middle East--and out of their sense of responsibility and desire [words indistinct] will not pass judgement in advance on Reagan's era on the basis of what was said prior to his assumption of his constitutional duties. They will define their stand in light of the [word indistinct] policy he will adopt. If Reagan follows Carter's steps, the United States will definitely be the loser.

RADIO SAYS REAGAN MUST RECONSIDER U.S. POLICY

JN211530 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, it seemed as if the page of the issue of the hostages held in Tehran were turned over and the crisis had came to an end. This is what one might think at first. However, that is really not the case. The crisis of the U.S. hostages is not over and indications show that it will not be over.

The issue of the U.S. Embassy hostages symbolized or reflected the trend and kind of relations between the United States and the Third World states, which it wants to keep backward. In other words, the hostage issue was the result of anhistorical reaction by the Third World peoples, which the United States wants to keep backward.

The release of the U.S. hostages on the very day when Ronald Reagan assumed his duties as the new U.S. President purports several things, which in turn, prove several trends of the conflict with world imperialism during the coming 4, 8 or, let us say, 10 years. The release of the hostages one moment before Reagan assumed his duties is in itself tantamount to addressing a warning to him while at the same time giving him a new opportunity to reconsider his country's trends for his country's own interest.

It would be erroneous to understand such a warning and such an opportunity as being solely Iranian in origin. Rather, these are historical and are not solely confined within Iran's border or to U.S. relations with Iran. They include the Third World states and peoples, these people's relations with the United States and the latter's stand on these peoples' issues.

Now that it is at the beginning of its rule, the new U.S. administration--Reagan's administration--should be aware that the hostage crisis will not end. Rather, this crisis is in a dormant state and might explode again in several parts of the world, since it represents a stand on the current U.S. policy, which is hostile to the peoples.

Perhaps the place that is the most appropriate for the repetition of the experiment--the experiment of confrontation--is where the Middle East games go on attempting to liquidate the Middle East issue: namely the issue of conflict between the Arabs and Zionism at the expense of the Arabs, who are the ones in the right, and in favor of the U.S. backed Zionist attack; where the U.S. continues to wager on U.S. tools: As-Sadat, Husayn and those following their course.

DELEGATION TO ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE RETURNS

JN212005 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Tripoli--Comrade Yusuf al-As'ad, Ba'th Party Central Committee member, has commended the positive outcome of the Arab people's conference, which coincides with this critical stage of our nation's history. Comrade al-As'ad, the head of the Syrian delegation to the conference, denounced the Camp David designs and the U.S. imperialist and Zionist plots which are aimed against the Arab existence. Comrade al-As'ad and his delegation returned to Damascus this evening.

ALGERIA

COMMENTARY PREVIEWS TASKS OF AT-TA'IF SUMMIT

LD211041 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 16-17 Jan 81 p 1

[APS commentary: "Working To Solve Conflicts and Serve the Palestinian and Arab Cause"]

[Text] The Islamic countries' foreign ministers conference opens shortly in At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, to prepare the agenda for the third summit of heads of state and government scheduled to take place in Mecca from 25 January to 2 February. This conference, which is being held in difficult circumstances for the Islamic world, should be an opportunity to increase its members' solidarity in order to counter the dangers constantly threatening them.

This conference also has particular nature in view of the questions now facing the Islamic family which are having serious repercussions on its future, questions such as Palestine, southern Lebanon, the Iraqi-Iranian war and the threats now hanging over the Arab Gulf region because of its oil resources and its strategic position.

As regards the Palestinian question in particular, the Islamic conference will again have to denounce the plots to secure ratification of the Camp David agreements with the Egyptian regime's active complicity. The coming Islamic conference will no doubt again clearly express, as it has already done in the past, its full support for and active solidarity with the Palestinian resistance. The latter, assured of the Islamic nation's political and material support, nonetheless expects more specific decisons from that nation with a view to stepping up the struggle against imperialo-Zionism. The dangers hanging over the nation have, in fact, become more specific, particularly during the past year through the maneuvers stemming from the Camp David agreements, making the Washington-Tel Aviv-Cairo axis a constant threat likely to destabilize the Near East region. Therefore there is no doubt that imperialism's machinations in the region will bring strong condemnations from the Islamic conference.

The Iranian-Iraqi conflict will also be on the agenda at this meeting which, in this connection, will be called upon to make every effort to end a fraticidal war having incalculable consequences both for the Iranian and Iraqi peoples and for the whole Islamic community and the anti-imperialist front. In this connection it is known that Algeria has pointed to the need for a cease-fire between the two warring sides and the forces' return to their initial positions. For Algeria, the implementation of the 175 Algiers agreements constitutes the appropriate framework for bringing about a just and peaceful settlement of any dispute arising between the two countries.

Moreover, this foreign ministers' conference is expected to seize this opportunity to find immediate solutions to the conflicts tearing the Islamic world apart and, at the same time, to take effective action to win back the rights of Muslim peoples still under the yoke of colonialism and Zionism. By ending these conflicts which hang heavily over its members' solidarity, the conference will certainly fulfill hopes, thus proving its existence as a force capable of imposing respect for its decisions.

It is by persevering along this path that the conference will be able to show the power and strength of Islamic philosophy and its attachments to the mobilization of all the potential which should serve the Islamic world's interests, thereby reflecting its peoples' will.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES MUSLIM CEREMONY ON ISLAM

LD211220 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Jan (JANA)--The leader of the revolution stated that the genuine Muslim individuals who sensed their self-motivated responsibilities toward the liberation of the land from tyrants are those who began the revolution in the modern era to destroy tyrants in the world. This came in a speech delivered by the leader in a solemn religious ceremony attended by a large number of Muslims from all parts of the Islamic world. The leader added that Idris as-Sanusi was one of those tyrants who fell on 1 September 1969 and used to hide behind Islam to serve his interests and that of colonialism, and non-Islamic interests.

The shah of Iran, who also hid behind Islam while in fact he used to worship America and the Israelis, was toppled, and by his downfall the Islamic revolution in Iran triumphed. He said that the Iranians, after the triumph of their revolution, are waging a real jihad. They have challenged the United States and trod on its dignity; she is begging them in front of the world without their being frightened by her fleets. The Iranian revolution has gained respect; it gave values to the Muslims and Islam by the power of faith it showed which frightened the major powers.

The leader of the revolution underlined the need for the Muslims to carry out jihad to liberate Jerusalem in a popular war and to rid it of the Zionist occupiers.

The leader of the revolution called on the Islamic people to be liberated from the hegemony of non-Islamic states. He said that Islamic peoples from now on must not remain under the hegemony of the British Commonwealth and must not remain under the hegemony of the francophonic group. There is no Islam dominated by France, no Islam dominated by America, no Islam dominated by Britain. He said that the blessed Koran urges jihad and is opposed to Islamic people being under [non-] Islamic hegemony.

The leader of the revolution urged the Muslims to adopt the Arabic language, the language of the Koran. He said: The Islamic masses must turn to the Arabic language without delay and impose it upon themselves and upon the coming generations. He added: As true and sincere Muslims who memorise the holy Koran, you should learn the Arabic language to understand the meaning of the Koran. There is no Muslim without the Arabic language.

The leader of the revolution addressed the huge numbers of Muslims who attended the religious ceremony on the importance of the holy Koran in the lives of Arabs and Muslims. He explained that after the establishment of the people's authority the holy Koran has become a source of legislation for the Jamahiriyah society. He said that in order for action to be genuine and just, the Koran must be the legislation for the society. He stressed that the holy Koran is not just a blessing or something to memorize--it is to be applied. The leader of the revolution said that we as Muslims must work, and legislate democratically without producing any legislation contrary to the holy Koran.

TRIPOLI SAYS AS-SADAT HAS DESIGNS ON SUDAN

LD211406 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Despite the foul expressions uttered by the ruler of Egypt in which he attacked the Libyan Arab people it is important that the Libyan Arab people learn the rancor and threats being uttered by As-Sadat.

He said: Egypt will enter Sudan after the Libyan intervention in Chad. As-Sadat went on to say: Egypt is in constant contact with Sudan and it will enter the battle whatever its nature.

At a political meeting he held in Aswan town yesterday As-Sadat mentioned that the Libyan presence in Chad is threatening Sudan's security and that Egypt rejects what has happened in Chad and will confront it. Thus, As-Sadat has completed the military occupation of the Sudan. This Egyptian military occupation of Sudan threatens the outbreak of war in the region and is threatening the security and the stability of peace in Africa. This flagrant Egyptian occupation of Sudan demands from the African presidents a speedy move and the adoption of a clear and decisive posture vis-a-vis this military occupation announced and implemented by As-Sadat in Sudan.

It would have been more fitting for the Sudanese Government to put its forces on alert and rapidly move to face this Egyptian occupation of its territory and protest against the French military occupation of the Central African Republic, instead of joining the Egyptian regime in its tendentious propaganda against the Libyan Arab people for the humane aid they extend to the fraternal people of Chad.

Thus the Libyan Arab people, who took the decision to cancel the confrontation with the Egyptian Army, should know about As-Sadat's aggressive intentions and the colonial plans hostile to the Libyan people so that As-Sadat's actions can be a lesson for the people's congresses as they make their decisions, so that these decisions can be mature and objective.

CHADIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES, MEETS AL-QADHDHAFI

20 Jan Arrival

LD202352 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Excerpt] President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud headed those who were at the Tripoli International Airport to welcome him.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meeting

LD211930 Tripoli JANA in English 1845 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Jan (JANA)--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Al-Fatah revolution, met with President Goukouni Oueddei of the Chadian Transitional Provisional Government for two hours in Tripoli this morning. The Chadian delegation of imams accompaying Goukouni expressed their thanks for the Libyan assistance to Chad especially for the assistance for the reconstruction of the mosques in the country which were destroyed during the war.

AL-QADHDHAFI DENIES NUCLEAR DEAL WITH PAKISTAN

BK211604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has said that he considers India to be a brotherly country. In an interview with the edition of the Bombay WEEKLY CURRENT in Tripoli, he said he has high esteem for Mrs Gandhi and is keen to visit India. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi denied that his country is helping Pakistan to produce a nuclear bomb. Describing the suggestion as a big joke, he said the question of this kind of collaboration between Libya and Pakistan does not arise.

CENTRAL AFRICAN LEADER TERMED 'IMPERIALIST AGENT'

LD212018 Tripoli JANA in English 1836 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Paris, 15 Jan (JANA)--David Dacko, the imperialist agent whom France appointed ruler of the Central African Republic, said on French television that he called upon the French troops to protect his country and maintain its independence and the unity of its soil. With this meaningless statement, the agent Dacko ignored the heroic African people who sacrificed scores of martyrs and fought for the liberty of Central Africa. Imperialist agent Dacko may have meant that he called upon the French troops to protect his very regime which the French forces of oppression set up for him on the corpses and skulls of Central Africa's people.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA VIEWS SIGNIFICANCE OF AT-TA'IF SUMMIT

LD210951 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 17 Jan 81 p 1

[MAP report: "The Next Islamic Summit Will Be a Historic Event"]

[Text] Casablanca, 17 January--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta left Mohammad V International Airport early on Thursday afternoon for Saudi Arabia where he will take part in the Islamic countries' foreign ministers meeting which will be held on 25 January in At-Ta'if. The minister is accompanied by Mr Kettani, director of the Middle East section and Maa El Ainine, mission chief at the Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation was seen off by Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Rabat (Ali El Kabbani), Mr Oukacha, representative of the governor of the Casablanca Prefecture and head of the Nouaceur District, and his close colleagues.

In a statement Mr Boucetta stressed that this meeting is particularly important in view of the questions which will be discussed and of the situation in which it is being held. We consider, he added, that this summit is as important as the one held in Morocco in 1969 under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II because the current situation in the Islamic world is as delicate as that which prevailed during the first Islamic summit.

In this connection the minister of state cited the situation in Afghanistan, the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, the occupation of the Arab territories and the Jerusalem and Palestine question. Mr Boucetta indicated that in addition to this situation there is an essential question for the Muslim world--the question of its very existence in a world which is experiencing conflicts between civilizations. He recalled that the 1969 summit was a historic event of prime importance for the Islamic world and for Morocco because that summit had been held at King Hassan II's initiative in agreement with his brother the later King Faysal of Saudi Arabia. The next Islamic summit, he continued, will also be an extremely important historic event in which Morocco, Saudi Arabia and their sovereigns King Hassan II and King Khalid will play a leading role.

We are going to the conference with the determination imposed by the need to overcome disputes between Islamic countries, to prevent anything which might divide Muslims and ensure that Muslim ranks are closed.

Mr Boucetta said that his majesty the king gave him his important instructions which will serve as an inspiration to him during the foreign ministers' preparatory meeting. He indicated that the summit will examine questions of concern to the Islamic world and relating to the political, economic and cultural spheres.

Morocco's role will be decisive and important owing to the fact that his majesty the king is chairman of the Jerusalem Committee which has been given the great mission of drawing up an all-embracing strategy on the Middle East question and the Palestinian cause, he concluded.

SUDAN

SUNA REPORTS CLASH BETWEEN LIBYAN, CHADIAN FORCES

JN221119 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1057 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Jan (SUNA)--Reports received by SUNA from inside Chad say that the Libyan forces have caused great destruction in the center of Am Zoer, which lies east of Abeche. The reports add that a huge fire broke out among the city's houses as a result of shelling and strafing by Libyan tanks and planes. The reports point out that one tank and a large number of planes participated in the destruction of this city, whose population numbers about 3,000.

The Forces of the North replied by attacking the Libyan forces as they were withdrawing toward the city of (Belti), which is under Libyan occupation. The attack by the northern forces resulted in the deaths of 80 Libyan soldiers and the destruction of 3 tanks.

Reports also say that 1,800 members of the Libyan forces participated in this attack, which was launched on 10 January after a delegation from the Libyan forces failed to convince the city's citizens to declare their support for Libyan intervention in Chad. In fact, instead of declaring such support, the citizens affirmed their rejection of the Libyan intervention and expelled the delegation from the city.

MUBARAK WARNS OF POSSIBLE SOVIET INTERVENTION

JN201029 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Text] Jidda, 20 Jan (SUNA)--Sudanese State Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak said that the Libyan intervention in Chad could lead to a direct Soviet intervention in the whole region which would definately threaten the security of Chad's neighbouring countries.

In a statement to the Saudi daily AL-MADINAH Mubarak said Sudan condemned and would condemn foreign intervention in the affairs of any country. He explained that he would brief the Islamic delegations on the consequences of the Libyan intervention in the whole region. Mubarak added he did not intend to present a working paper to the conference in this respect. [Words indistinct] head of the Cameroon delegation and the foreign minister of Niger to discuss issues of mutual concern.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON HOSTAGES, PEACE EFFORT

TA211309 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin's remarks in the Knesset Cabinet room to the visiting Egyptian parliamentary delegation on 21 January--recorded]

[Excerpts] With your permission, may I say that I am sure we all, today, Egyptians, Israelis, all free nations and men and women of good will, will join in in sending the heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the American people at the release of the hostages from Iran. It was a tragedy which lasted for nearly 15 months. It was not only a problem for the American people but, indeed, for all of us who believe in international law, the sacredness of diplomatic immunity, in human rights and liberty. We were with the American people, all of us, during the days and nights of their pain and worry. We were, deeply in our hearts, with the captives and their loving and longing families and now, thank God, they are again free men and they will soon join the families coming back to their homes.

If there is any effort that we will meet again--Americans, Egyptians and Israelis to make another peace effort--to me the elections won't be any obstacle. I have good friends. They are very good speakers and they can do the job. Indeed, there was a hope, and that was a proposal by President as-Sadat that there should be a tripartite meeting before the American elections. But now not only those elections are over but a new President came into office yesterday, and if he invites President as-Sadat and me for a meeting with him, either separately or, even better so, jointly, then I will go and participate in that meeting and the election campaign. It won't wait. It can't wait, but it will go on.

SHAMIR CONGRATULATES REAGAN, U.S. PEOPLE

TA211312 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] The foreign minister has congratulated President Reagan on his assuming office and expressed the hope that the President would work together with Israel in a close and genuine manner. Foreign Minister Shamir said he was encouraged by Reagan's statements that he will be loyal to U.S. allies and will help them in defending their freedom.

Shamir has also sent warm greetings to the U.S. people on the conclusion of the nightmare that was involved in the hostages affair. More than any other state, Israel felt the Americans' pain and the concern during this period of trial. He expressed the hope that the United States would find the way to defend its honor, which is essential to the safety of the entire Western world.

Shamir was addressing the conference of the World Jewish Congress in Jerusalem.

SHIM'ON PERES LEAVES ON EUROPEAN TOUR 21 JAN

TA211931 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Labor Party head Shim'on Peres this evening left for a tour of European countries during which he will meet with, among others, the leaders of France and Britain. Peres noted that the aim of his tour was to explain political viewpoints enjoying wide support in Israel today and Labor Party viewpoints. According to Peres, it is very important today to explain Israel's position before the European countries and the United States resume their political offensive in the Middle East.

The first leg of Peres' tour will be Paris. He will meet there with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. In the Netherlands, Peres will meet Foreign Minister van der Klaauw and Labor Party leader Den Uyl. He will meet Prime Minister Thatcher and Labor leader Michael Foot in London.

Interview on Aims

NC211115 Paris AFP in English 1056 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 21 (AFP)--Labor opposition party leader Shim'on Peres, tipped by opinion polls here as the next Israeli premier, said today his country should seek a political and territorial compromise to the Middle East dispute.

"I am convinced we must look for a political and territorial compromise," he said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "Today, peace is as necessary to Arab countries as to Israel. For this, we want to establish contacts country by country in the (?perspective) of a global peace," Mr Peres added.

The Israeli Labor (?Party) proposes "a Jordanian-Palestinian peace framework which will include a solution to the Palestinian problem," he said.

He said he was opposed to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), but added that he hoped "Palestinian representatives living in the Jordan West Bank and Gaza would take part in negotiations between Israel and Jordan."

On the eve of his trip to France, Britain, the Netherlands and West Germany, Mr Peres also said he intended to open a "dialogue with Europe."

"I am very sorry that some European countries have sided with the Arab camp and have adopted a somewhat extreme position," he said.

"In spite of disputes, there must be a dialogue. For my part, we want to explain our opposition to the European Venice declaration. I am convinced our position is just and reasonable and that we are right," he added.

The problem is not to find out what Europe can obtain from the Middle East but what Europe's contribution to peace in the Middle East will be," Mr Peres said.

The Soviet Union will have "no role to play in the region as long as its position remains wholly in favour of the Arabs," he said. "The Soviet Union only seeks its own strategic interest."

The Labor Party leader also suggested Europe could play an important role in regional economic cooperation.

KNESSET APPROVES ARIDOR AS FINANCE MINISTER

TA211244 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] The Knesset has approved the appointment of Yoram Aridor as finance minister. The 59 coalition Knesset members and Knesset members Shlomo Eliyahu and Flatto-Sharon supported the appointment. Thirty-three opposition Knesset members voted against it, and the Shinuy faction and Kalman Kahana of Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el abstained. Correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli noted that the absence of RAFI faction members was conspicuous.

JERUSALEM CONCERNED OVER EGYPT-PLO CONTACT

TA221148 Jerusalem POST in English 22 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] There is concern in Jerusalem at what is perceived as the possible beginning of a rapprochement between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

An Egyptian politician met recently with Yasir 'Arafat and other PLO leaders in Beirut, and President Anwar as-Sadat later acknowledged that the meeting had been arranged with his knowledge, saying that the PLO would eventually have an important role to play in the peace process.

The Egyptian who visited PLO headquarters was (Abd al-Rahman ash-Sharqawi), head of the "Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee." He took a number of other public figures and newsmen with him, and was accorded a guard-of-honour reception by the PLO at Beirut airport. He held talks with 'Arafat, and other PLO leaders Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) and Faruq Qaddumi.

In a subsequent conversation with U.S. Congressman James Scheuer, As-Sadat is reported to have said that (Ash-Sharqawi) went to Beirut with his prior knowledge, and that the PLO must play an important role in the peace process as one of the "main parties." But As-Sadat added that the PLO would only enter the picture after an autonomy agreement had been reached between Egypt, Israel and the U.S.

Israeli anxieties have been neightened by a recent article in the weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF extolling the prospect of improved ties between Egypt and the PLO. The piece was written by senior editor Ahmad Hamrush, who accompanied (Ash-Sharqawi) to Beirut.

Some Israeli observers suggest that recent Egyptian backtracking aspects of the "normalization" might be connected in some way to the signs of rapprochment with the PLO. The observers said Israel has always been aware that there is a continuous, behind-the-scenes dialogue between Cairo and the PLO. But, they said, these recent public manifestations might signal a new Egyptian resolve to heal the rift that opened after As-Sadat launched his peace initiative.

COMMENTARY WELCOMES SAUNDERS' RESIGNATION

TA211701 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jan 81 p 9

[Yo'el Marcus commentary: "Thank Goodness We're Rid of Him"]

[Text] It is still too early--or, at least, there is no reason yet--to rejoice over the change in the U.S. administration. But in the meantime I am drinking a toast to mark Harold Saunders' resignation from the State Department. We can say goodbye to him, not au revoir, while whispering a thankful prayer to ourselves for having got rid of him, because there is no individual American who managed to cause Israel as much harm as Saunders, the assistant secretary of state for Middle East and Southeast Asian affairs. He undermined Israel's political status in the United States and encouraged the Palestinians to strive to attain their own entity. He coined substitute terms for the Palestinians' nationalist aspiration that finally pushed Mr Begin--of all Israel's prime ministers--into unintentionally signing a document recognizing the existence of the Palestinian nation and providing verbal recognition of its "legitimate, just rights."

The short-sighted widower appears, on the surface, to be abstemious, modest and shy, but behind this innocent appearance is concealed an analytical brain in which Israel, for some reason, took up the main place, and a razor-sharp tongue. His seeming modesty did not prevent him from degrading former Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman at a public event at the residence of the Israeli ambassador in Washington, when he needled him and contradicted him sharply, using such words as "you do not understand." In this Washington, where the hierarchy is so scrupulously guarded, it is hard to imagine a situation in which a state official dares to be so impudent to any minister who is a guest of the state, and get away with it without being rebuked, as occurred in the Saunders-Weizman incident. He did not like Israeli journalists and discredited them in a way that will not easily be forgotten, claiming that "they are not serious"; but when he met with American Jewish journalists, he often spoke about his great fear for Israel's future. This "fear" did not stop him from hinting, in a conversation with the author of these lines, that if another war were to break out in the area because Israel had put spokes in the wheel of peace, "the United States would have to consider how, with what speed and if at all to rescue Israel if it again suffered a shortage of weapons."

We are not so naive as to assume that U.S. policy would not have shifted in the same direction it did even if Saunders had not existed. However, it is doubtful whether the policy would have shifted as quickly. To a great extent, he was the "devil's advocate" in Carter's administration. It was his conclusions, based on the "reality," as it were, that in fact contributed to this policy's creation. He accelerated or rather undermined the framework of a political process with his talent for pessimistic thinking and his articulateness.

In 1975 he presented his views to Congress, saying the heart of the Israeli-Arab conflict was the Palestinian problem and the conflict would be ended if there were a solution to this problem. Saunders in fact canceled UN Security Council Resolution 242 with one stroke of the pen. Former Secretary of State Kissinger had reservations about that document, claiming to our representatives that he was guarding Israel against "elements of the Saunders type." When a group of farmers from Georgia went to the White House--some of them certainly had not previously known whether Tel Aviv was in Saudi Arabia or Iran--Saunders became Carter's oracle. He was able to make the president aware that the Israeli-Arab conflict was the heart of world peace and that many of the United States' world problems would be solved if the Palestinians' nationalist aspirations were to be granted. And it is no coincidence that the Carter administration dealt with Israel in a way out of all proportion to the other U.S. problems, at a time when the Americans' honor, prestige and influence were being brazenly trampled underfoot by the Soviets. He was instrumental in all U.S. statements on our issue. He invented the idea that settlements [in the administered territories] was illegal according to the Geneva convention. He coined the phrase "homeland" for the Palestinians used by Carter (in Clinton) as a Balfour declaration for the Palestinians and in his contacts with the Palestinians he ignited their flame of hope that the United States would support a full withdrawal by Israel, including from east Jerusalem.

By virtue of his expertise, his great skill, his industriousness, his documents, his formulations and his influence over the last 4 years U.S. public opinion has recognized the Palestinians' right to a state of their own. And even though for every Saunders who goes it is obvious that a dozen other potential Saunders will take his place, not one of them, as I see it, will be as harmful and dishonest as he. His resignation does not mean that Israel's position will improve but Israel will at least have a new chance to explain itself because Saunders had already reached a point where he did not permit facts and words of persuasion to upset the theses he adhered to with such fervor. His resignation is undoubtedly a great loss to the Palestinian cause.

OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETS IN ARUSHA

Tanzanian Call

LD192133 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 19 Jan 81 EA

[Text] Arusha--Tanzania has called upon African countries to transform the failure of the Geneva talks on the independence of Namibia into a strong weapon for waging the necessary diplomatic and political war against South Africa. The call was made in Arusha today by the prime minister, Ndugu Cleopa Msuya, when opening the 5-day 36th ordinary session of the OAU liberation committee.

He told delegates that Africa must transform this failure into a strong weapon for the armed struggle of our gallant brothers of SWAPO. Ndugu Msuya said the armed struggle for the liberation of Namibia should now be intensified on all fronts. He urged OAU member-states to speedily respond to the recommendations of the liberation committee on the mobilization of assistance of the five African frontline states in the liberation of Southern Africa.

Spokesman's Remarks

LD202116 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 20 Jan 81 EA

[Text] Arusha--The 36th session of the OAU Liberation Committee, meeting in Arusha, has expressed its concern at the failure of the Geneva conference on the Namibia question. A spokesman of the committee, Ndugu (Laban Uyaka), told newsmen, however, that the committee, was not surprised by South Africa's intrigues which caused the failure of the conference. Ndugu (Uayaka) said delegates attending the session were told that South Africa went to Geneva to show its arrogance, as was evident at the conference. The committee also hailed the Namibia liberation movement--SWAPO--for the dignity and stand at the Geneva conference.

Trade Embargo

LD211952 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 21 Jan 81 EA

[Text] The OAU Liberation Committee currently meeting in Arusha has called for the immediate termination of trade between African countries and the Boers. A spokesman of the committee explained that the committee had expressed its great concern over the increase of trade between African countries and South Africa, adding that such transactions were an obstacle in the liberation war. The committee stressed the importance of discussion among African states so as to successfully apply trade sanctions against the Boer regime.

The spokesman further said that the committee had considered the possibility of calling for a meeting of the UN General Assembly or sessions of the Security Council, the OAU and the Arab League to consider steps for the imposition of trade sanctions against South Africa.

The committee also called for an increase in military, political and financial assistance to SWAPO. The committee discussed the situation in South Africa as well as receiving reports from the Pan-African Congress and the ANC.

BURUNDI

MINISTER DENIES SUPPORTING LIBYA-CHAD MERGER

AB201952 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1815 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Text] Bujumbura, 19 Jan (AZAP)--In a press release issued on Sunday, Lt Col Edouard Nzambimana, the external affairs minister of Burundi, indicated that so far his country is neither for nor against the proposed merger between Libya and Chad.

This correction is meant to deny a piece of information in which AFP, quoting the Libyan press agency JANA, stated that Burundi had expressed its support for the proposed merger between Chad and Libya, for the Jamahiriyah and for the ambitions of its people.

The Burundi authorities, who claim not to be sufficiently informed on the nature of the merger, always support the Lagos accords on Chad and condemn all forms of imperialism, no matter what its source.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

PRESIDENT DACKO CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT REAGAN

AB212025 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] The president of the Republic, Mr David Dacko, has sent the following message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan:

Mr President, dearest friend: On the occasion of your inauguration as the 40th President of the United States of America, it is a special pleasure for me to reiterate my warmest congratulations to you as I did on your brilliant election.

I want to reiterate the wishes that your mandate will be crowned with success and that under your administration the relations of friendship and cooperation between the United States of America and the Central African Republic will be further strengthened. I assure you, Mr President, of my wholehearted friendship. Highest regards.

[Signed] David Dacko, President of the Central African Republic.

CHAD

ACYL'S FORCES SAID NEAR CENTRAL AFRICAN BORDER

NC211731 Paris AFP in English 1719 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Paris, 21 Jan (AFP)--Troops of the Chadian faction headed by pro-Libyan Foreign Minister Ahmat Acyl have taken up positions close to the border with the Central African Republic, reliable French sources said here today. Mr Acyl's men were not threatening the republic but rather were trying to monitor the border zone to prevent rebel Defense Minister Hissein Habre from establishing a supply base in countries neighbouring Chad, the sources added. Mr Habre's forces were defeated last month by Libyan-backed troops of Chad President Goukouni Oueddei.

Meanwhile, according to the same sources, fighting is continuing in the eastern Chadian area of Biltine between Libyan forces and Habre supporters.

AUTHORITIES SHOWING CONCERN ABOUT LIBYAN PRESENCE

AB211500 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Ndjamena, Jan 21 (AFP)--The authorities here, having minimised the implications of a planned merger between Libya and Chad, are nonetheless showing some concern about Libyan presence, which in the space of a month has taken a firm hold in the north of the country.

Recent statements here suggest that Chadian authorities share concern expressed by a growing number of African states over the merger agreement, announced in Tripoli on January 6 at the end of a visit by Goukouni Oueddei head of Chad's Transitional Government of National Union. On Monday the CHADIAN NEWS AGENCY ATP published the full text of a communique signed by 11 African heads of state in the Togolese capital last week. The communique, in part, condemned the merger plan and called on Libya to withdraw troops that helped Mr Goukouni defeat rebel Defense Minister Hissein Habre last month.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kamougue Wadal Abdel Kader, Chad's vice-president and a faction leader from the country's Christian and animist south, on Monday clearly hinted that the authorities here are ready to conform with all but one of the terms of the Lome communique. In an interview with AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE, he went as far as to say that the transitional government and Libya, when the moment was right, should agree on the means for a Libyan withdrawal. Cooperation, yes, the eclipse of the Chadian state, no, he added.

The one recommendation that the Chadian authorities seem unlikely to accept is a call that elections envisaged in a 1979 Lagos agreement between Chad's 11 politico-military factions should be held before the end of April.

Since Libya-backed forces loyal to the transitional government drove Mr Habre and his supporters from here on December 15, the Libyan expeditionary force has been strengthening its presence throughout the northern half of the country. Reports from the centre of the country are few, but comments by Chadian officials and a number of other sources suggest that Libya's military presence stretches from Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti in the north to a line running from Lake Chad, passing through Ndjamena itself and Mongo, to Abeche, in the west. [as received]

In Mongo, 200 Libyans are said to be in a Catholic mission. In Abeche, according to a reliable source here, Libyans have recruited 2,000 young Chadians for training. Other reports say that peoples committees have been set up in a number of areas, on the initiative of the Libyans.

A government source meanwhile said that Nigeria had complained to the Chadian Government after a Libyan unit occupied a small island claimed by Nigeria in the centre of Lake Chad. Lagos responded by sending army reinforcements to northern Nigeria, the source added.

In Ndjamena itself, where the sectors under Libyan control are better known, the transitional government has started rubbing out the most glaring traces of foreign presence. Banners in Arabic, which once adorned several cross-roads here, have been taken down, or shot full of holes.

Reliable sources meanwhile said that the government is planning to retake control of the capital's airport, which has been protected by the Libyans until now. One Chadian minister, who has described this as a high-priority task, recently commented: "How can you expect a Western businessman to come here as long as the Libyans are at the airport?"

Observers here however expressed doubts that the Libyans would happily agree to hand over control of a sector that has such undoubted strategic importance as the airport. At present, they not only occupy the passenger terminal but also an air base where French troops were stationed until France decided to pull all its troops out of its former colony last Arpil.

CAPE VERDE

PRESIDENT PEREIRA APPOINTED LEADER OF NEW PARTY

LD212118 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] President Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde has been appointed secretary general of the new Cape Verdean ruling party--the African Party for Independence of Cape Verde.

PREMIER SAYS GUINEA-BISSAU WILL NOT TRY CABRAL

AB221120 Paris AFP in English 1054 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Praia, Jan. 22 (AFP)--The revolutionary council that seized power in Guinea-Bissau on November 14 has undertaken not to put ousted President Luis Cabral on trial, the premier of the Cape Verde Islands, Bissau's estranged sister-state, said here. General Pedro Pires, speaking to journalists here yesterday, added that the Verdian authorities thought that the revolutionary council would respect this undertaking.

The Cape Verde Islands maintain that the release of Mr. Cabral (whose family was Cape Verdian) would help lead to a normalisation of relations between the two West African states, he said.

In Lisbon, an informed source said that President Antonio Ramalho Eanes was planning to ask the new rulers in Guinea-Bissau, a former Portuguese colony, to release Mr. Cabral, who is under house arrest in Bissau.

Mr Pires, meanwhile, said that if Guinea-Bissau pressed ahead with a plan to send a delegation from Bissau wing of the PAIGC [African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde] Party, which ruled both countries from independence until this week, it would simply be received as a delegation from the state of Guinea-Bissau. Praia broke party links with Bissau on Monday when it set up an autonomous national party to replace the PAIGC as the ruling power in the archipelago.

GHANA

LIMANN SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

AB201853 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Text] In a congratulatory message to President Reagan, President Limann noted with great satisfaction that relations between the United States and Ghana have always been cordial and have been based on mutual respect, close and fruitful cooperation. He recalled with appreciation the sympathy and assistance offered by the United States to Ghana in her efforts at national reconstruction. Dr Limann hoped under the presidency of Mr Reagan the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened.

Ghana, the president said, appreciates the efforts of the United States in the pursuit of world peace and security. In this regard, he hoped Ghana could count on the continued support of the United States in the decolonization process so that a free and independent Africa could play its full role in the search for global peace, security, economic progress and true freedom.

GUINEA-BISSAU

OFFICIALS REACT TO NEW PARTY IN CAPE VERDE

Mario Cabral Statements

AB201653 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Text] Bissau, 20 Jan (AFP)--Mr Mario Cabral, Guinea-Bissau's state commissioner (minister) for rural development and spokesman of the Revolutionary Council, told AFP on Tuesday that the decision by the leaders of Cape Verde to modify the name of the African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC) constitutes a betrayal of the ideals of Amilcar Cabral, founder of the party.

Guinea-Bissau, he said, will maintain the name PAIGC for its party in power in spite of the decision taken on Monday by the party in Praia. In Praia, the branch of the party will henceforth be called the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV).

It will be recalled that the decision to change the name of the party was taken by the conference of high Cape Verdian government officials which was transformed on Monday into the constitutive congress of the PAICV following the overthrow on 14 November of the former president of Guinea-Bissau, Luis Cabral. That coup d'etat was condemned by Cape Verde. Until the coup, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde were both governed by the PAIGC, which was founded in 1956 and intended to unite the two former Portuguese colonies.

Mr Cabral said that Guinea-Bissau will pursue the PAIGC program. He said that since an autonomous Cape Verdian party had been created, Guinea-Bissau was now going to reexamine its decision taken on Sunday to send a delegation to Praia to seek means of restoring dialogue between Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau.

However, Mr Cabral did not exclude the future possibility of creating special ties of cooperation between Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde within the framework of African unity.

Mr Mario Cabral said the decision to create the PAICV was not made by the Cape Verdian population but by some of its leaders who had succeeded in manipulating the people. He added that the creation of that party did not come as a surprise to the leaders of Bissau. He said, for a long time now it had been likely that Cape Verde would break away from the party, but we did not believe that that country was going to go to such an extreme. The creation of the PAICV has changed the components of the problem, and Guinea-Bissau is going to reexamine the situation.

Nino Vieira Remarks

LD220228 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 0000 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] The chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Guinea-Bissau has described the establishment of the African Independence Party of Cape Verde [PAIVC] as a betrayal of the memory of Amilcar Cabral. Nino Vieira, the chairman of the Revolutionary Council, said that the 14 November coup was prompted by an atmosphere which was becoming dangerous. Commander Nino added that the coup follows the line of thought and action of the late Amilcar Cabral because the higher interests of the people are at stake.

Nino Vieira, who was speaking at a rally in Bissau, also said that he belongs to the African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde [PAIGC] and will continue to belong to the party founded by Amilcar Cabral, to whom he owes everything. Referring to the people currently detained in jail following the 14 November coup, the chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Guinea-Bissau said that they will be set free in due course. He added that Luis Cabral is not the only one currently in jail. He said that many Guineans who were detained are in prison because they allowed themselves to be deceived and misled. As honest, conscientious and humane men, we will release them all, although they committed crimes against the supreme interests of the people, he concluded.

In connection with the situation of the detainees, a reference should be made to a report carried yesterday by Diario de Lisboa, which reported that an initiative is reportedly being considered in Lisbon to secure the release of former President Luis Cabral. Reports from Praia indicate that the Cape Verdian authorities will welcome any demarche from Gen Ramalho Eanes and the Portuguese Government in this connection.

LIBERIA

EDITORIAL HOPES FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH REAGAN

AB202039 Paris AFP in French 1744 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Text] Monrovia, 20 Jan (AFP)--The United States and Liberia should improve and intensify their relations on the moral, economic and cultural levels during the Reagan era. This wish was expressed in an editorial published on Tuesday by the NEW LIBERIAN, the official organ of the Liberian Ministry of Information.

Taking into consideration Mr Reagan's message to the Afro-American conference that was held in Sierra Leone recently, the NEW LIBERIAN expressed satisfaction with the desire expressed by the new American President to strengthen the ties between his country and Africa. But, the editorialist stresses, we think that this cooperation should be based on the priorities of reborn nations such as Liberia and not on the security preoccupations of the U.S. Government.

The NEW LIBERIAN, however, concludes by thanking the Carter administration for the real and solid support it gave to Liberia during the first days of its revolution and hopes that President Reagan will continue from where the Carter administration left off.

MALI

PRESIDENT TRAORE SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO REAGAN

AB211730 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] The chairman of the Malian People's Democratic Union and president of the Republic of Mali has sent a message to His Excellency Mr Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America. Following is the content of the message:

As you assume the heavy and high responsibilities of president of your country, it gives me much pleasure to send to you on behalf of the people of Mali, their party--the Malian People's Democratic Union--their government and on my own behalf, our warm and cordial congratulations.

By electing you president, the people of the United States of America wanted to demonstrate the confidence they have in your ability to lead them in the future to prosperity and peace. In this fast changing world, where the prodigious conquests made by science afford man possibilities of collective well-being as well as those of destroying himself all the nations must work hand in hand for the establishment of a era, of understanding, cooperation and solidarity. There is no doubt that during your term of office, the great American people will surpass themselves in the preparation of a better future for the coming generations. I am convinced that the United States of America will help in the further implementation of the steps being taken toward establishing a more equitable and just international economic order, because the maintenance of peace and security will mainly depend on greater justice in international relations.

For its part, the Republic of Mali is sincerely happy about the friendly bonds of cooperation which fortunately exist between our two countries. As a third development decade of the United Nations is just beginning, may these relations grow stronger and stronger in the true interest of our peoples. Wishing you every success in your high mission. Sincerely yours, Gen Moussa Traore.

ANGOLA

LUANDA REPORTS 'COUNTEROFFENSIVE' IN CUAMATO AREA

LD210750 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0530 GMT 21 Jan 81 EA

[Defense Ministry communique issued on 20 January]

[Text] Our glorious People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], mounted a counteroffensive against the South African racist forces on 11 January after the latter had violated our borders by attacking our forces stationed at Cuamato municipality. In this communique the Defense Ministry wishes to inform the Angolan people and world public opinion of the progress of the fighting taking place in the south of our country.

On 17 January a commando unit of the glorious FAPLA, which was sent to the north of Cuamato to reinforce the troops mounting the counteroffensive, was surprised at about 0630 by eight helicopters of the racist South African Air Force, which were preparing to bomb the unit. Our antiaircraft defenses promptly engaged the helicopters, destroying three of them; the remaining helicopters escaped. Soon afterwards the same formation returned, this time accompanied by four Impala Mark II fighter bombers. Our forces shot two of the fighter bombers down and forced the remaining three [number as heard] to withdraw.

In the final stage of the action, the aim of which was to prevent reinforcements from reaching our forces which are mounting the counteroffensive, the racists sent in two Buccaneer bombers flying at an altitude of 4,000-5,000 meters. These aircraft bombed the area without damaging our forces.

The Cuamato area is still occupied by the racist forces. Fighting is in progress and the racist South African enemy is suffering heavy losses in men and material. Our glorious armed forces, imbued with a high spirit of patriotism, will press on with their counteroffensive until every adventurist Pretoria soldier is driven out of the territory of our fatherland. The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

[Signed] Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, office of the Defense Ministry in Luanda, 20 January 1981

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA SENDS COMMENDATION MESSAGE TO CARTER

LD211404 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Jan 81 CA

[Text] President Kaunda has commended the outgoing American President Jimmy Carter for his unflinching personal commitment to human rights in the world. In a message sent to Mr Carter today marking the end of his term of office as president of America, Dr Kaunda says Zambians appreciated the (?massive) role Mr Carter played in his 4-year term of office in promoting and enhancing the warm relations between the two countries. Dr Kaunda, who recalled in particular the very useful exchange of views and ideas he had with Mr Carter during his visit to the United States in May 1978, said the obvious outcome of those discussions was the improved appreciation by the United States of America of the problems in southern Africa.